



## THE GREAT BRITISH NORTHWEST TERRITORY.

BY LEE MERIWETHER.

"CANADA captured? Bah! What's Canada but a few acres of snow and ice?"

So spoke Louis xv. when told of England's victory on the banks of the St. Lawrence—an utterance prompted by chagrin and mortification, yet also largely due to a very real and dense ignorance of his lost colony across the ocean. Indeed, it is a question whether a large number of people, otherwise well informed, are not as ignorant on the subject to-day as was Louis xv. in 1763.

"You are not going to Canada in that summer suit and spring overcoat?" said a friend, who knew of my intended trip, and met me on the way to the station.

"Why not?" said I. "Do you not know that, excepting mountain, lake, and sea-coast districts, summer in Canada is hotter than in New Orleans?"

My friend said that he did not know this; that many others are equally ignorant is evidenced by the number of tourists one sees in Canada provided with only

heavy clothing, and sweltering in a temperature of one hundred degrees in the shade. Only recently have our school geographies ceased to misrepresent British America by a vague white spot on the map; and even now, how many Americans, among those fairly well informed, know that were the United States laid on top of Canada, enough Canadian territory would remain uncovered to make half a dozen kingdoms the size of Belgium or Holland?

The line of its northern boundary, extended two thousand miles eastward, would pass through Hudson's bay and Labrador; due north of Montreal or Quebec it would pass through a wild waste of unexplored and uninhabitable wilderness. But in Alberta this same parallel of latitude finds a country growing grass seven feet high, and forty bushels of wheat per acre. Why this great difference? Because, west of Manitoba, the isothermal lines make a great turn to the north. Why do they turn to the north? I do not