



II.

THE PRAIRIE PROVINCE.

MANITOBA AND ITS CAPITAL — THEIR ROMANTIC HISTORY AND MAGIC NEW GROWTH — WINNIPEG'S POPULATION MULTIPLIED TEN FOLD IN TEN YEARS — IMPRESSIONS OF THE NEW CITY — EMIGRATION, PRESENT AND FUTURE — THE FIRST WASH OF THE HUMAN WAVE — THE GROWTH OF A POLITICAL STATE OUT OF A TRADE COLONY — THE HUDSON BAY COMPANY — ITS PAST AND PRESENT.

Manitoba, the Prairie Province, and Winnipeg, its capital, with several changes of proprietorship and vicissitudes of fortune, have had two distinct epochs of history, one about fifty years long, from the grant to Lord Selkirk in 1811 to the formation of the Canadian confederation in 1870; and the second from that event to the present. The first was a long period of torpor and slow growth, crowded with wild adventure and romantic incident, but unmarked by signs of material progress and advancing civilization. The second period has been one of wonderful growth and swift material development. A single branch of semi-barbarian commerce has been succeeded, with the rapidity of a panoramic change, by all the varied industries of a civilized people. A settled political system has succeeded a species of feudal land proprietorship; a city has succeeded a trading post; the province has trebled in population, and its capital has grown ten-fold; railroads have brought emigration and commerce and all the varied pursuits of agriculture; trade and manufactures are crystallizing about a growing center of national life.

Ten years ago Winnipeg awoke from a lethargy of half a century to the vigorous palpitating life of a modern commercial city, almost in a day. Political organization was the magic wand that