

AMID the strife of parties and contention of factionists it is refreshing to turn the attention to the quiet and steady progress of our country—to drop political speculating, and devote a short time to the history, position, and prospects of our Dominion.

There is not, perhaps, in the civilized world, a country of equal importance with Canada; and of which, at the same time there is so little known in other countries. Although it has been known to Europeans for nearly four centuries, and colonized by them for nearly two hundred and fifty years, it is notorious that its extent, resources, prospects, state of society, etc., are little understood in Europe. It is still more surprising, that in Great Britain, which has held Canada as a colony for more than a century, the general impression is extremely erroneous, and almost always unfavorable; especially when compared with the opinion which prevails there concerning our Republican neighbours. And no wonder, for these latter lose no opportunity of extolling their own land as the most favored on earth; and if they notice Canada at all it is to draw a contrast to our prejudice.

To judge from the tone of the press, as well as from the common idea both across the border and in England, we should be led to suppose that the United States were possessed of resources, and were making unparalleled progress, (such as no other part of the universe could attempt to rival); whilst Canada, on the other hand, had no resources, was devoid of enterprise, and effected no improvements. Too many suppose it to be a dreary, inhospitable region, the inhabitants of which are either too spiritless to seek a better home or too ignorant to know that other lands offer greater privileges. These are extremely false impressions, and were it not that I am confined to the limits of a short paper, I should enquire into their causes, and endeavour to suggest a remedy. At present, however, I shall confine myself to stating a few encouraging facts with reference to our country, and pointing out a few of the many advantages it possesses over other lands.