

Canadas. Fortunately, at this very time these Colonies were entertaining propositions for a union among themselves ; and when their delegates met at Charlottetown in September, they were joined by a deputation of the Canadian Ministry to advocate the larger confederation. The meeting was adjourned in order that delegates might have power given them to deal with the larger question ; but they met again in Quebec in October. At this meeting a draft of the constitution of the proposed confederation was drawn up and agreed to, subject to confirmation by the Home Government and the respective Provinces.

XXIII.—The American war this year (1864) was evidently drawing to a close, from the rapid exhaustion of the Southern Confederacy. General Grant crossed the Rapidan on the 4th of May on his final movement against Richmond ; and though confronted by General Lee at every step, and driven from the most direct route by many bloody conflicts, he succeeded at last in reaching the James River, and commenced the siege of Petersburg and Richmond. On the 2d of September, General Sherman took Atlanta, in Georgia, and on the 12th of November commenced his famous march to the sea, through the very heart of the Confederacy, leaving behind him a broad track of devastation. Several events occurred in this year which threatened seriously to compromise the peaceful relations between Canada and the States. There were a great many Southern refugees in Canada, and while most of them enjoyed Canadian hospitality peaceably, others contrived means to annoy the Federal Government from its northern borders, and thus cause a diversion in favour of their friends in the South. One of these plots resulted in the capture of two small American steamers on Lake Erie, which were, however, soon abandoned ; another