

Questions which will prove to be bones of contention there for many long years to come have been quietly settled here for many years back. The franchise is low enough to satisfy everybody. We have a school-law which, though far from theoretically perfect, can be worked satisfactorily if there is a reasonable amount of accommodation on both sides. The only land questions that ever troubled us, the Seigniorial tenure in Lower Canada and the Clergy Reserve Lands in Upper Canada, were disposed of years ago. The relation of the Churches to the State is one of entire separation, and the country is free from those irritating claims to supremacy which torment and distract so many communities of the Old World.

Now, our great work must be to develop our resources, and to subdue and populate the enormous territories which, under Providence, have been committed to us. The great question, of course, will relate to the opening of the vast regions of the North-West. Here are—if reports be correct, and there is a singular harmony and consent amongst those who have hitherto told these stories—regions under our control which are fully as good as the lands composing the best Western States of the Union. All that Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Minnesota are now *combined*, our own North-West may be within the life-time of many amongst us. The first point is to get an easy route thither for emigrants, and for this purpose it is obviously desirable to utilize our water communication. Nature has given us a magnificent range of water communication, reaching within four hundred miles of the territory. To open up this four hundred miles, then, should be our first business. It is difficult country, but no more difficult than that through which thousands of miles in the States pass. A railroad could be finished in two years, and in the meantime the present road could be finished and put into good condition for travel. There is, if report be true, a good deal of land along the route which would be

available for settlement; and, at any rate, when once the road strikes the prairie, as it will long before it reaches Winnipeg, it will be in the midst of a region as good as any Western State. As to the great scheme of a railway to the Pacific, that must bide its time. Once get a population into the North-West, and all the rest will follow naturally and easily.

Canada has had several years of uninterrupted material prosperity, and is growing apace. The foundation of the whole is her good harvests. Her people should not forget that these come not by their skill, but by the favor of Him who is Lord of the material as well as the spiritual universe. The people have to do their part in subduing the rough wilderness first, and then in "dressing" and "keeping" the farm; and in both, those practical habits of foresight, observation and industry should be brought into play, which are according to the will of the Creator. He gives the power to get wealth, and if the power is exercised wisely, wealth will flow in as naturally as fruit follows the planting.

The United States are fast recovering from the shock of panic. Again we have to recognize the bounty of the great Father in giving a most fruitful and abundant season when it is sorely needed. The crops over the whole producing area of the United States are the largest, probably, ever known—West and South alike are favored. Had this not been the case, the country would even now be writhing in the throes of a revolution more severe than any previously known.

There is peace in Europe, but it is the peace of an armed truce. The disturbing element, if we trace things to their foundation, is the temporal power of the Papedom. Restless intriguers are bent on restoring it, and they are adepts at the game. But the march of events for the last century or two has been against them, and it is almost certain that in this attempt they are only repeating the experiment of Canute's courtiers.