

V I S I T O F T H E P R I N C E O F W A L E S T O N O R T H A M E R I C A .

BRITISH POSSESSIONS IN NORTH AMERICA.

This progress of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in British North America having directed public attention in an especial manner to our possessions in the continent, we have been induced to give the accompanying Map, in which the route of his Royal Highness may be clearly traced.

This extensive tract of country, and most important colony of England, extends in a triangular form from Gaspé Point, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, long. 64 deg. 10 min. W., to the shores of Lake Superior, about long. 90 deg. W., north by lat. 42 deg., and 50 deg. N., bounded north by the Hudson Bay territory, south by Lakes Huron, Erie, Ontario, the St. Lawrence, New Brunswick, and the States of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine; and west by Lake Superior. Length, 1500 miles; breadth, 200 to 400 miles. The country, formerly divided by the Ottawa River into the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, was united in 1841, though differing in laws, manners, and customs. For some purposes the old divisions are still retained. The upper province, or Canada West, has a level surface, except in the west, where a ridge of undulating heights, stretching from south-west to north-east, forms the water parting between Lakes Huron and Superior. The upper province is watered by streams flowing south to Lakes Erie and Ontario; the principal rivers are the Thames and the Ouse, which enters Lake Erie. The Niagara separates the peninsular portion of south-west Canada from the State of New York on the east. Lower Canada, or Canada East, is characterised by picturesque scenery; it is traversed from north-west to south-west by the Green mountains, in part of its course the boundary between Canada and the State of New York, and its tributaries, the principal of which are on the north, the Ottawa, formerly the boundary between the upper and lower provinces, which flows south-east and joins the main stream at Montreal, the St. Maurice, and Three Rivers, which flows south and joins it seventy miles west of Quebec, and the Saguenay from Lake St. John. On the south side of the St. Lawrence the chief affluents are the Richelieu, St. Francis, and Chaudière, flowing northwards. Besides the great Lakes Superior, Huron, Erie, and Ontario, the surface of the country is covered with sheets of water connected by numberless small streams. Its climate is excessive, the temperature ranging from 102 deg. to 36 deg. Fahr., but the dryness of the air, and the absence of high winds, greatly mitigate the cold of winter, and render the climate salubrious. The educational establishments are rapidly advancing in number and usefulness, the Government educational grants for Lower Canada being £38,888, and for Upper Canada £28,848. In 1851 the population, according to religion, was—

Table with 3 columns: Religion, E. Canada, W. Canada. Rows include Church of England, Church of Scotland, Church of Rome, Free Presbyterians, Other Presbyterians, Wesleyan Methodists, Episcopal Methodists, New Connection, Other Methodists, Congregationalists, Baptists, Lutherans, Quakers, Jews, and Others not classed.

Canada is peculiarly inviting as a field for emigrants, the soil being fertile and easily cultivated, with facilities for commerce on its rivers and lakes almost unbounded. Numerous railways in progress or completed, excellent roads and canals, open up the interior. Land is easily attainable. Crown lands in Lower Canada can be purchased at from 1s. to 4s. per acre, according to situation, the purchase-money being payable in five yearly instalments from the date of purchase. In Upper Canada the cost of land is 7s. 6d. per acre, the purchase-money being payable in ten yearly instalments. Agricultural labourers are in demand, and wages are high. This country was discovered in 1498 by J. and S. Cabot, and acquired by the British between 1759 and 1763. In 1774, by an Act of the British Parliament, a Legislative Council of twenty-three members was appointed to assist the Governor. In 1791 two Legislative Councils were constituted; and after several years of much discontent in the colonies, and at last an open rebellion in 1837-8, a bill was passed in 1840 to reunite the two provinces under the administration of a Governor-General, a Legislative Council of not less than twenty-two elected by the Crown, and a Legislative Assembly of forty-two members from each province elected by the people, the electoral qualification being the possession of a 40s. freehold. Lower Canada is subdivided into the four districts of Quebec, Montreal, Three Rivers, and Gaspé, each of which has its judges, sheriffs, &c. The districts are subdivided into forty counties, and upwards of 200 seignories and fiefs, and 160 townships. The seignories are old French divisions, and mostly inhabited by a population of French descent. In 1793 Canada was made an English bishopric. There are now Bishops of Quebec, Montreal, and Toronto, besides Roman Catholic Bishops, and Protestant dissenting ministers of all denominations.



CANADA, NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA

British Miles 60 to a Degree. Note: The boundary between the British Possessions and the United States is shown as settled by treaty August 9th 1842. Railways opened... proposed...

NEW BRUNSWICK. This British colonial territory in North America lies between lat. 45 deg. and 48 deg. N., long. 63 deg. 18 min. and 67 deg. 30 min. W., having west Maine and Lower Canada, north Chaleur Bay, east the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Northumberland Inlet, and south the Bay of Fundy, connected at its south-east corner with Nova Scotia by an isthmus fourteen miles across. Its estimated area is 27,700 square miles, and its population in 1851 was 123,803. Its principal rivers are the St. John, Restigouche, and Miramichi. Of the soil, which is fertile, only a small portion is cleared, the rest is mostly covered with dense forests, and the exportation of timber has been hitherto the principal source of wealth. Potatoes are the chief articles of culture. Other crops are wheat, maize, oats, and barley. The rearing of live stock is increasing. Its fisheries are highly important, and shipbuilding is actively carried on at St. John. Manganese and iron are abundant. Its government is vested in a Governor, a Council, and House of Assembly of twenty-six members, which meets at Fredericton, the capital. Besides the armed force maintained by the British Government, a native militia of 20,000 is kept up. In education, this is in advance of most other British colonies, having King's College at Fredericton, seven grammar-schools, and in 1845 509 parochial schools. In 1858 a railway, sixty-five miles in length, between St. Andrews and Woodstock, was opened. Also the railway from St. John to Shediac, 100 miles long, was opened in 1859. Public revenue (1852) £138,220. The colony is divided into fourteen counties. Its principal towns are St. John, Fredericton, and St. Andrews. It was ceded to Great Britain with Canada in 1763.

NOVA SCOTIA, a peninsula of North America, forming a British colonial territory, lies between lat. 43 deg. 35 min. and 44 deg. 40 min. N., long. 60 deg. 35 min. and 69 deg. 10 min. W. It is connected north-west with New Brunswick by an isthmus fourteen miles across, and separated on the north from Prince Edward Island by Northumberland Inlet, and a narrow strait from Cape Breton on the north-east, having on other sides the Atlantic and the Bay of Fundy. Its estimated area is 17,846 square miles, and its population in 1851 was 276,177. Its surface is greatly diversified, and well watered, but nowhere more than 700 feet above the sea. Coal abounds in its western part. Its rivers are numerous, and Lake Rossignol, in the south, is thirty miles in length. The shores are irregular, abrupt, and present numerous harbours, with deep waters, but nowhere more than 700 feet above the sea. Its principal crops are wheat, barley, rye, oats, potatoes, turnips, and maple sugar. In 1851 there were 567 churches and 1096 schools, attended by 31,354 pupils. It has railway communication with Halifax and other places. The government is vested in a Lieutenant-Governor, a Council of twelve members, and a Legislative Assembly, elected by 40s. freeholders, two members being returned by each of the ten counties, and the rest by the towns, the principal of which are Halifax, the capital, chief seat of commerce; Annapolis, Liverpool, Pictou, and Windsor. The colony has a High Court of Chancery, and forms, with Cape Breton, a bishop's see. Nova Scotia was discovered by Cabot in 1497, subsequently settled by the French, who named it Acadia, and, after many vicissitudes, finally ceded to the British in 1758.

CAPE BRETON, an insular colony of British North America, is situated at the eastern extremity of Nova Scotia. Its extreme length from north to south is 100 miles, and its extreme breadth from east to west eighty-five miles. The population is about 35,000. It is irregularly shaped, and indented with bays, almost intersected by an arm of the sea called the Bras d'Or. The land to the north has an elevation of 1890 feet. There are fresh-water lakes and rivers, but not navigable, and salt springs on the coast. The climate is varied. Vegetation is rapid. Maize and other grains are raised; but the corn produced is insufficient for home consumption. The principal exports are pine, oak, birch, and maple timber to Great Britain; fish and coal to the United States and West Indies. The population is mostly of French, Scotch, or Irish descent. This island forms a colony under the government of Nova Scotia, and sends two members to its House of Assembly. Its principal towns are Sydney, the capital, Arichat, and Port Hood. Cape Breton was first colonised by the French in 1712, and taken by the British in 1758.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, another of the British colonies of North America, is in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, separated south and west from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick by Northumberland Strait. Its area is 2134 square miles. The island is entirely composed of carboniferous sandstone, and coal is abundant. The climate is milder than in the surrounding British colonies, and the soil is fertile. Most of the grains and vegetables raised in England come to perfection in this colony; timber is plentiful, and the pastures are of a superior quality. The fisheries and shipbuilding are important. Its trade is principally with Great Britain, Ireland, and the adjacent colonies, with which its agricultural produce, timber, seals, shipping, and fish, are exchanged for colonial and manufactured products. The Government is vested in a Lieutenant-Governor, a Council of nine members, and a House of Assembly of eighteen members, elected by the inhabitants. Charlottetown is the capital.

