

THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

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The union of the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, on the 1st of July, 187, was an important event in the history of this continent. Lord Monck, then Her Majesty's chief representative in British North America, characterized the union as the foundation of "a new nationality," and it is gratifying to know, that within the bounds of the five Provinces and the North-west Territories, which now comprise the Dominion—not to speak of the sister colonies which have not yet cast in their lots with us—there exist all the elements necessary to build up a prosperous and powerful people.

Nations, like individuals, invariably have their difficulties. Great Britain has its *skeleton* in Ireland, and in the destitution of the lower stratum of its population. France trembles at the sight of the *spectre rouge*. The United States had their *bete noir* in human slavery, and now are troubled with a conquered but unconquered South and the wounds and burdens of a costly war. The Dominion, it must be confessed, is not free from the common lot. We have difficulties—both within and without—to combat and overcome. But these are not greater than the problems which perplex other countries; and it can be fairly claimed that Canada stands prominently forward among the nations at the present time, rivalling any in general prosperity, and the happiness, enterprise, and intelligence of its people.

Confederation has largely increased the importance of this country in the eyes of the world. The best evidence of this fact is to be found in the augmented flow of immigration to our shores. It is estimated that 25,000 Immigrants settled in the different Provinces during 1870*. This is not so large a share of the "human tides" as we expect to receive hereafter, but it is a marked increase over previous years, and indicates that since the Union we have received, as we deserve, increased attention from foreign countries. But there are comparatively few abroad, and not so very many even among ourselves, who fully appreciate the vast extent of our territory, the amplitude of our resources, the general excellence of our institutions, and the important future which, with anything like wise statesmanship on the part of our rulers, is certainly in store for this country.

With the single exception of Russia, the Dominion of Canada embraces the largest area of territory of any country in the world. This may surprise those who have not closely examined their maps, but it is borne out by facts. Our neighbours, the people of the United States, who sometimes speak as if the whole continent were theirs, have to take a secondary place to the Dominion when boundaries come to be discussed. The present area of our territory is as follows:—

Province of Ontario.....	121,260 square miles.
“ Quebec.....	210,020 “
“ Nova Scotia.....	18,660 “
“ New Brunswick.....	27,105 “
“ Manitoba.....	13,000 “
North-west Territories..... say	2,737,000 “

Total area..... 3,127,045 square miles.

Adding to these figures the area of British Columbia (now seeking admission into the Union), 220,000 square miles, and the islands of Newfoundland and Prince Edward, respectively 40,200 and 2,100, we find the full size of British America to be no less than 3,389,245 square miles! Without counting these important Provinces as part of the Dominion—as they undoubtedly will be ere long—it occupies in point of size the second place among the nations, as will be seen by the following statement † of the areas of the ten largest countries:—

Russia.....	7,012,874 sqr. miles.	Turkey.....	1,812,048 sqr. miles.
Dominion of Canada.....	3,127,045 “	China.....	1,297,999 “
Brazil.....	3,08,104 “	Mexico.....	1,030,442 “
United States.....	2,999,848 “	British India.....	938,722 “
Australian Colonies.....	2,582,070 “	Argentine Confederation †	842,789 “

* The number and destination of the immigrants who entered Canada during the last four years for which returns are given, were as follows:—

Year.	Total Number.	Settled in U. S.	Settled in Canada.
1866.....	51,795.....	41,704.....	10,091.....
1867.....	51,878.....	47,212.....	10,666.....
1868.....	71,148.....	57,683.....	12,765.....
1869.....	75,590.....	67,180.....	18,630.....

† Mostly taken from Statesman's Year-book, London.

‡ The size of the other principal States of America is as follows:—Peru, 508,986 square miles; Bolivia, 472,298; Venezuela, 425,712; Ecuador, 287,000; Chili, 249,952; and Cuba and Porto Rico, 52,750.