

## CHAPTER III.

Physical Features.—Area.—Climate.—Meteorological Tables, &c., &c.

133. A glance at the map of North America will show a vast body of water called Hudson Bay, the extreme southerly prolongation of which—James Bay—pierces the Dominion (the distance between it and Lake Superior being under 350 miles), and becomes a central point from which Canada stretches its huge extent in every direction. To the south and south-east lies the great *woodland region* comprising the Provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario. In this region for a couple of centuries the forests have been attacked by armies of lumbermen hewing down the trees for export and for home uses or clearing the ground for agricultural pursuits.

To the east and north-east is the north-east *fur territory* whose vast dimensions are illustrated by the fact that Moose Fort on James Bay is as far from the most easterly point of the Labrador Coast as it is from South Carolina.

134. To the west and south-west lies the great *prairie region* comprising Manitoba and the four provisional districts of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Assiniboia and Athabasca.

135. To the north-west are Keewatin and the Peace and Mackenzie River districts—the land of furs and fish, while beyond the prairie region, still further west, is the *mountain region* of Canada, embracing the Rocky, the Selkirk and the Gold ranges of mountains.

136. From the 85th degree of longitude the country stretches west to the 130th, and east to the 42nd—45 degrees on the one side and 43 degrees on the other side.

North and south the country stretches from 51st degree of latitude, south to the 42nd, and north to the Frozen Sea.

Speaking generally, the country is divided into the basin of Hudson Bay and those of the Peace, the Mackenzie, the St. Lawrence and the St. John Rivers, and the two slopes of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

The basin of Hudson Bay is the largest, being over 2,000,000 square miles in extent. One obtains an idea of this extent from the fact that all Europe outside of Russia could be put there with room enough left to pack away in it the States of Texas and New York.

The St. Lawrence Basin covers 530,000 square miles, of which 460,000 square miles are in Canada.

The Mackenzie Basin has an area of 550,000 square miles. The St. John Basin and the Atlantic Slope together have an area of 50,214 square miles, and the Pacific Slope one of 341,303 square miles, traversed by the Columbia, the Fraser and other large rivers.