

THE GREAT DOMINION



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GREAT DOMINION

STUDIES OF CANADA

BY

GEORGE R. PARKIN, M.A.

HON. LL.D. USIV. NEW BRUNSWICK

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PREFACE

THE greater part of the matter contained in the following pages appeared during the past year in a series of letters to the *Times*. Those letters were the result of a somewhat careful study, made in behalf of that journal during the autumn and winter of 1892-3 of many parts of the Dominion which I had not visited before, as well as of other portions with which I had long been familiar. A later visit, made during the summer of 1894, has enabled me to make many additions on questions of interest, and in a few minor points to correct earlier impressions. It also gave me the opportunity of submitting my statements on various questions to the judgment of friends whose criticism derived special value from their full knowledge of particular localities.

The form in which the studies originally appeared necessarily involved the choice of a limited number of subjects and condensed treatment. It will therefore be understood that no attempt is here made to treat exhaustively the manifold conditions of a country which, like Canada, covers half a continent. The object kept steadily in view has been rather that the letters should, so far as they go, leave upon the mind of the reader a true impression. An endeavour has also been made to select those subjects upon which it seems most necessary that accurate information should be easily accessible,

and a measured judgment formed, both within the Dominion and without.

The order of treatment has been determined by considerations other than those of geographical continuity.

Directly or indirectly the studies will, I think, be found to touch upon the most significant conditions of Canadian life, the most important of the problems which confront Canadians, and those external relations which have the greatest general interest.

It has been a satisfaction to find that throughout Canada they have, in their original form, been very generally accepted as fair statements of the questions with which they deal. As I have never hesitated to point out the drawbacks and limitations of the country as well as its advantages, this approval seems to indicate that Canadians have reached a point where they are quite willing that the merits and defects of their country should be freely weighed together. The fact marks an important stage in the growth of a self-reliant feeling in a young community.

There are good grounds for believing that the diffusion among British people of trustworthy information about the various parts of the empire, and concerning the place which each of the greater divisions, at least, is fitted to hold in the national system, will do much to keep the lines of further national development in true directions. I can only hope that what is here written of the greatest of the colonies may in some slight degree serve this purpose.

My best thanks are due to the proprietors of the *Times* for their readily granted permission to reproduce in another form material which first appeared in their columns.

G. R. P.

LONDON, *January*, 1895.

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