THE DOMINION OF CANADA. A STUDY OF ANNEXATION. A DISSERTATION IN PART FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE SCHOOL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, COLUMBIA COLLEGE

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With the compliments of the author
Wm B. Aitken

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INTRODUCTION.

At a time when so much is said about independence or annexation for Canada, and national pride declaims a great deal about "manifest destiny" and the glory of a North American Republic, it may be of interest to examine the progress of the United States and Canada and the relations which they bear to one another at the present day.

In a discussion of the advisability of annexation no attempt will be made to assert any theories as to the future, but those brought forward by induction through the historical, comparative and statistical methods.

Thus the reader may see the influence that history, the principal of these three methods, has had upon Canada's people and present political situation. For history is the useful instructor of nations and its lessons derived from antiquity are of inestimable value to the modern statesman. Therefore the true historian and political writer endeavors to regard the facts and events that present themselves to his knowledge with impartial eyes, accepting neither Catholic nor Protestant accounts of religious or political movement without due allowance for prejudice, and aiming above all to give a just interpretation of all conflicting circumstances.

The method by comparison will enable us to see

the difference between the two countries and observe what traits the peoples possess in common, in arts, manners and habits, and the causes that have been at work in the New World to make several of these traits differ in various degrees.

The statistical method, though often of less interest, is useful in obtaining exact facts and their deductions, and must consequently be used with the other methods.

In treating of the organization of a state we must see what has been its development and thus forecast its future. The state must be regarded as a unity embodying in itself the three unities of people, territory and government.

Therefore, since this unity in its larger signification is represented by the word nation, we can best determine whether it is advisable to make one great Republic of the United States and the Dominion of Canada, by seeing how far the two countries co-incide in geographical, ethnical and political characters.

THE DOMINION OF CANADA:

A STUDY OF ANNEXATION.

CHAPTER I.—HISTORICAL.

COMPETITION FOR NORTH AMERICA.

The English King Henry VII. had experienced a feeling of keen regret that the petition of Columbus had been refused when he sought aid from his court. Therefore, John Cabot and his son Sebastian were freely given a patent under which they set sail with a band of explorers, and on the 24th of June, 1496, came in sight of land which Cabot hoped was India, but he said: "I found that the land ranne toward the north, which was to mee a great displeasure."[1] This land was the coast of Labrador, and Cabot had discovered the American continent.

But England's right to the northern part of the continent by prior discovery was not valid without actual possession and occupation; therefore, when the French settled the country a few years after, their title by occupancy was sustained by international law. They gave the name Canada to the country in 1506, from the Indian word "Kannatha," meaning a collection of huts. But it was not until the exploration of John Verrazzani, in 1523, that the French Government encouraged the settlements of whale and cod fishermen in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.

1 "Lives of the Admirals"—Campbell. Vol. I., p. 338.