

## CHAPTER XVIII.

## A PERIOD OF DEVELOPMENT.

**Retarding Forces.**—In former days Nova Scotia held high rank as a shipbuilding country. The material of which ships were built was abundant in her forests; and her extensive coast waters abounded in excellent harbours. Her vessels were then found on every ocean and sea of the wide world, and little towns sprang up and flourished on every bay and harbour in the province. Then came the age of iron ships, and those of wood were almost wholly driven from the sea, while the great industry which they had nourished was starved and almost became a thing of the past.

Again Nova Scotia has been impoverished by the emigration of her people for the enrichment of other lands. For many years the trend was to the United States. And there are to-day in that republic thousands of Nova Scotians who hold high place in science, in literature, in varied departments of professional life, and among the captains of industry, whose contributions to the well-being of that great country have added much to its greatness. Nor may we suppose that their service to their adopted land is wholly lost to that of their parentage. It must all tend to unanimity in thought and feeling and to concert in action among the two neighbouring peoples.

Scarcely was the depleting outflow in that direction arrested, when Canada's own great