

LESSON XXV.

BRITISH POSSESSIONS.



SNOW STORM IN CANADA.

1. The BRITISH POSSESSIONS embrace more than one third of the territory of North America. The country is noted for the severity of its climate, its numerous fresh-water lakes, and its valuable fur-bearing animals.

2. The settled portion is in the southeast, within the basin of the St. Lawrence, or adjacent to the gulf of that name.

3. This part is divided into five provinces; namely, Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland.

4. The remaining portion is under the government of the Hudson Bay Company. The few inhabitants who live in this region are principally engaged in collecting furs.

Questions.—1. What do the British Possessions embrace? For what is the country noted? 2. Where is the settled portion? 3. How is it divided? 4. The remaining portions? How are the people engaged?

LESSON XXVI.

CANADA.

1. CANADA is the largest and most important of the British Provinces in North America. It is divided by the Ottawa River into two parts, called Canada East and Canada West. These divisions formerly constituted distinct provinces; but are now united under one general government, though still differing in laws, manners, and customs.

2. Canada West is remarkable for its rapid growth in

population—the number of its inhabitants having more than doubled during the ten years prior to 1851.

3. The surface of the country is undulating, but not mountainous; the soil and climate are favorable to agriculture. Wheat and oats are the staple agricultural products.

4. Among the most common trees are the pine, fir, maple, cedar, birch, ash, oak, beech, elm, cherry, poplar, and willow.

5. TORONTO, formerly called York, is the chief place in Upper Canada; it is situated on a fine harbor, on the northern shore of Lake Ontario.

6. Kingston, at the outlet of Lake Ontario, has a well-sheltered and well-fortified harbor. Hamilton, at the southwest extremity of the same lake, is a rapidly increasing place.



VIEW OF HAMILTON.

7. The other principal places are, Bytown, London, Belleville, St. Catharines, Brantford, Coburg, Dundas, Niagara, Brockville, Port Hope, Peterboro', Prescott, Galt, etc.

Questions.—1. What is Canada? How divided? What of the government? In what respects do they still differ? 2. For what is Canada West remarkable? 3. Surface? Soil? Productions? 4. Trees? 5. Toronto? 6. Kingston? Hamilton? 7. Other principal places?

LESSON XXVII.

CANADA.

[CONTINUED.]

1. CANADA EAST is more mountainous, less fertile, and has a colder climate than Canada West.

2. The most fertile and thickly settled portions lie along the River St. Lawrence, between Montreal and Quebec.

3. More than half of the inhabitants are of French descent. They speak their native language, are a kind and warm-hearted people, but rather averse to improvement.

4. Canada is overspread with forests, affording timber for ship-building and other purposes. Large rafts are floated down the Ottawa and St. Lawrence to Montreal and Quebec.