

What struck me was the absence of any taint of vulgarity amid the freer initiative and the greater self-reliance found in men and women alike. With its resources so ample and vast, and its population so relatively small, Canada has a large door of opportunity, and allows of great inventiveness in methods of work. This freedom from the rigid immobility of things at home is not without great advantage, and is turned to excellent account by wise and level-headed men there.

One is not surprised to find education, prosperity, and comfort so widely diffused in Canada, for the ideal of that country lies neither in the tramp nor the millionaire. Education is under charge of the provincial governments. School buildings are commodious and good. I did not find that education is valued for its commercial worth, or as contributive to colonial expansion and material progress, any more than people value it for such reasons at home. There, quite as much as at home, one finds some sense of the power of education to brighten and beautify life by throwing open the joyous fountains of thought and literature. Too many of the teachers in Canada make the profession merely a stepping-stone to something else—law, medicine, or divinity. It need hardly be added that too many of the lady teachers leave the profession to get married, for the general happiness of the race is more than the interests of a profession. I often heard it said that too many subjects are taught the children, so begetting a tendency to superficiality.