

that what we possess belongs to us rightly enough, because we earned it by our own toil. What we love is Canada; we desire its greatness. This is why we do not wish to drown it by Annexation or Federation. We insist on remaining Canadians, and that is all."

At the last meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, held at Ottawa, on the 5th of last February, it was resolved that it would be desirable to hold a convention of all the fruit growers' associations of the Dominion at an early date. This is in accordance with a suggestion made by Professor Penhallow, at the last meeting of the Montreal Horticultural Society, and the Ontario fruit growers have paid the Montreal society the compliment of leaving to them the initiative of this important matter. The Montreal Horticultural Society have opened a correspondence with the Nova Scotia and other societies on the subject, and, in all probability, the first convention of fruitists of the whole Dominion will meet in Montreal in January next.

BACK TO SCHOOL.

With the mild days of September, when the white light of the sun bends toward the autumnal equinox, and a soft, hazy atmosphere soothes both mind and body, the noisy holidays quietly lapse into the opening of the school days. A most interesting sight is that of the withdrawal of the thousands of boys and girls from their games, their tramps, their hunting, fishing and flirting adventures, and at once falling into the humdrum and even tenour of the daily lesson. The spectacle is, furthermore, significant of progress, because it is not beheld everywhere, there being unfortunately countries, and districts of countries, even in this enlightened age, where no school-house is found to alternate with the homestead or the church, and no book, slate or blackboard is set before the eager eyes of childhood to break the sameness of every-day life, in town, hamlet or countryside.

Schooling has become one of the great institutions of Canada which, whoso has travelled and observed, will acknowledge to be second to no other system of education in the world. This is saying a great deal, but it is literally true, and what adds to its merit is that we have not been blind copyists. We have wisely steered our course according to our peculiar circumstances of race, creed and tongue, and made the separate school scheme virtually our own. While our mode of tuition, the choice of books and subjects of teaching, the ways of discipline and the artificial spurs of emulation in study, are mostly and rightly derived from the American schools, we have eschewed the shortcomings and drawbacks of the American Common School system, strictly so-called. It is not needful to stop for the purpose of discussing this system, to which the highest authorities of the United States—clerical and lay—strongly object, but it will be enough to confine ourselves to our mode of separate teaching, whereby the inalienable rights of the minorities, in the several provinces, are respected and guarded, and the denominational principle is carried out to the satisfaction of individual consciences and the keeping of peace and spiritual harmony in the household.

While this spirit has been deemed essential in the elementary and intermediate schools, it has likewise been instilled, to a great extent, into the

higher institutions of learning, such as the academies and colleges. A few of these are undenominational, while the majority are shaped according to the teachings and tenets of the several churches, but in all the necessity of religious instruction is upheld as paramount, and the result is a thoroughness, fulness and strength which promise well for the future intellectual and moral condition of the country.

There is ample room left for Schools of Arts and Design and Industrial Schools, meant for the large class of young men and women whose circumstances in life will not allow their cultivating the higher and gentler accomplishments of literature and science. Their call is the toil of hands; but, through these special schools, this workmanship may be shaped according to scientific rules and beautified with artistic ideals, thereby increasing their intrinsic worth and adding to the sum total of the workingman's well-being.

THE QUEEN CITY.

Like almost all the important points on the banks of the St. Lawrence River—testifying to the keenness and sagacity of the original explorers—the site of the city of Toronto was chosen by the French for a military station, under the name of Fort Rouille, and when they abandoned it, the Indians took possession. The name Toronto is said to be Huron, with the doubtful meaning of "place of tryst" or "trees rising from the water." The town itself was founded in 1794, by Governor Simcoe, the great Ontario pioneer, whose place in Canadian history has only of late been rightly valued. He called the settlement York, and proceeded at once to erect parliamentary buildings, wherein the Legislature met for the first time, in 1797. The frontier and lake town grew slowly from the beginning, lying low, on marshy ground, whence came the name of "Muddy York," and drawing little attention, outside of special circles, till the war of 1812-13, when the American forces, under General Pike, stormed the fort, with the loss of their commander's life, and captured the place, which they held, however, only a few days. After the war, York took an upward turn, which it maintained for some twenty years, till March, 1834, when, Sir John Colborne—so closely connected with the rebellion, three years later—being at the head of the Government, the town was incorporated into a city, the name York set aside, and the original Indian name, Toronto, adopted. The first election was held in the same month of March, and resulted in the return, as first Mayor, of the renowned William Lyon Mackenzie, whose exploits in 1837-38 gave the uprising in Upper Canada the title of "Mackenzie's Rebellion."

From that date up to this the city of Toronto has kept pace with the progress of the country. Until 1867, it was the exponent and standard-bearer of Canada West, so-called after the designation of Upper Canada was discarded, and before the title Ontario was adopted, drawn from the Indian lake that washed the nets of the Torontos in the beautiful bay where the waters meet. After Confederation, in 1867, the destiny of Toronto was assured. It was felt that its geographical position would command a large proportion of the inland trade of the country, both by land and water, and that, commercially and financially, there was nothing to prevent it being the second trade centre in the Dominion. Politically, its

prestige was enhanced by the choice thereof, as the capital of what our western friends are pleased to denominate the "Empire Province," whereat we all bow acquiescence and smile, carrying our complacency even so far as to accept for the fair city the ambitious title of "Queen." Nay, Toronto soars higher and claims the lofty distinction of the Athens of British North America, which Halifax is hardly disposed to grant, and Montreal can afford to waive, leaving the decision to the test of published books and the number of learned bodies flourishing in these several cities. But Toronto is a centre of which the whole Dominion is with reason proud; solid in invested wealth; brilliant in enterprise; progressive in municipal management; ambitious of the civilizing arts; and bearing the stamp of individuality—whereby you know a genuine Toronto man when you meet him—with the American push, the British thrift, blended in Canadian patriotism.

THE DOMINION CAPITAL.

This city, like other portions of the Dominion, is bidding welcome to returning tourists from their sojourn abroad, some from over the sea, the favourite resorts on the St. Lawrence, the seaside places of the United States, the Canadian mineral water localities, the salmon fisheries, and camp outings nearer home, forming a varied list of pleasure and health-seeking resorts unknown to the past generation, the rapid transit of modern locomotion by railway routes, the speedy motion of ocean steamships, and the palatial river steamers affording every facility for reaching remote and nearer distances, all indicate the wonderful change in progress which has been wrought within a comparatively short period.

Now that matters are settling down to the usual course, the Capital may be expected to resume its position again as the abode of the Governor-General and of the Cabinet Ministers, who have been absent on missions of business, combined with pleasure, and of which the members of the Civil Service have also partaken their share during the brief holiday season. The collegiate and scholastic institutions are resuming their studies, invigorated in body and mind after the summer vacation.

The environs of Ottawa abound in pleasant resorts, in various directions, for picnic parties, drives, etc., and the woods, lakes and rivers afford ample scope for sportsmen, lovers of the rod and gun, game of various species being found at comparatively short distances from the city. The Saturday trips and moonlight excursions down the River Ottawa, by the fine steamer Empress, are a source of delightful pleasure and enjoyment. Agreeable and pleasant trips are also afforded between Ottawa and Kingston, via the Rideau Canal, by steamers fitted up with every comfort and convenience that could be desired.

Ottawa, Aug., 1888.

G. S. P.

The word "blizzard" was used in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina, in the common speech of people of Irish, English and Scotch descent, a hundred years ago. Forty years ago and earlier, in the State of Ohio, the word always meant a loud and rapidly-uttered scolding, voluble and excited, but not indicating deep or settled bitter feeling or hatred.

In 1878 a gold watch, made by Dent & Co., of London, bearing the monogram "N." was made by their firm for the Empress Eugenie for presentation to the Prince Imperial. The other day the back of the watch, still bearing the monogram, was brought to their establishment by Messrs. Weill & Harburg, who informed them that six years ago it had been bought by a client of theirs at Kimberley from a Zulu. The broken remnant of the watch torn from the poor slain Prince in that obscure Zululand donga where he met his death had found its way to its original makers; from whom, probably, it will pass to the Empress.