

ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE publishers of THE CANADIAN MONTHLY, in making the announcement that they intend for a time to suspend the publication, do not relinquish the hope that the magazine will yet take a permanent, as it has taken a prominent, place in the literature of Canada. The experiment of establishing and maintaining a periodical of such pretensions as THE CANADIAN MONTHLY in our inchoate state as a nation, and in the face of the active and ever-increasing competition of English and American serial publications, it will be readily admitted, was a hazardous and courageous one. That at no time has the publication been a profitable one, but, on the contrary, that the maintenance of the magazine has demanded a large and continuous outlay which, in our limited field of sale and the indifference of our people to higher literature, has met with no adequate return, those, at least, who have had any experience of publishing ventures in Canada will not be surprised to learn. In view of this circumstance, though it may fairly be claimed that the magazine has been sustained long enough to test the support its promoters naturally expected it would receive, the public ought not to be surprised should its owners now grow weary of maintaining the publication, or its editor lose heart in the task of conducting it, while the support is withheld which its character, its record, and its aims should more largely have won for it.

To reproach the public for its want of appreciation, we need hardly say, is no wish of either publishers or conductor. The public has its preferences, and has a right to them, and if it gives little heed to native projects in higher literature, or finds more attraction in those that have their source abroad, Canadian publishers must accept the situation and await the development of a national spirit more favourable to culture and intellectual advancement. Till we reach the self-containedness and self-dependence which it is to be hoped the country will one day attain, Canadian literary enterprise will have little to encourage it. Those who have aided, and are aiding, the approach of a better time for Canadian letters, if we accept Dr. Johnson's dictum that 'the chief glory of a people arises from its authors,' deserve the thanks of every true friend of Canada. They must be largely supplemented, however, and receive more encouragement from the press and from our public men, before they can hope to infect the people with that ardent interest in intellectual growth which is the true mark of national greatness and the best quickener of national life. Without the stimulus of patriotism all enterprises of a purely literary character must languish, and Canadian talent be drafted off to more remunerative spheres.

In the midst of the present political excitements, few, it may be, will heed or concern themselves with this announcement; but a day, we hope, will come when 'the political game' will not absorb every thought of the nation and when literature will hold up its head in honour. Till then the higher thought of the country must find such channels of utterance as public caprice or indifference, graciously open to it, and Monthly Reviews must uncomplainingly suffer eclipse.

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