

The Editor of "The Young Canadian" to all
Young Canadians.

GREETING :

HERE is THE YOUNG CANADIAN, all for yourselves—your very own selves. You have never had one, and it is quite time you had. So long in coming, it should be good when it comes, shouldn't it? See for yourselves; the Title Page, how pretty; the paper, how fine; the type, how clear; the size, how handy; the colour, how sweet; the writers, how captivating; the pictures, how fascinating; the departments, how inviting; the stories, how enthralling; the everything for everybody, in time for every Saturday, how lucky; all for your own selves, how delightful!

In a specimen number we could only go to the stacks of material and take a few samples of the good things, and of these only a scrap or two. For a page is only a page. It is not a street car. But the scraps tell something of the feast, and the feast provided for the first year is enough to make your eyes sparkle with joy.

Look out for us then in the holiday season, and we shall be on the look out for you. We shall work day and night to know you, to please you; with help in your lessons; advice in your work; stories in your leisure; games in your evenings; guidance in your clubs; what to read; how to dress; how to keep well; where to go for your holidays; how to make home happy and useful; how to make one dollar go as far as two; how to write shorthand; how to make the country proud of you; and eventually, how to become the Prime Minister. To do this you must let us know you. You must work hand-in-hand with us. No use in having these good things if they cannot reach you; and to reach you we must know you. We want every Canadian boy and girl, every young man and young maiden, to send us their name and address and we will forward a sample copy, and confidential terms as to commissions. Send to-day.

"THE YOUNG CANADIAN" PUBLISHING CO.,
Box 1896, MONTREAL.



The Dominion Parliament will soon be meeting again in Ottawa. It is a busy time for the Members. The great questions which affect the whole country are discussed there, and the interests of any of the Provinces in so far as they affect those of any other Province. YOUNG CANADIANS have not been taught to bother themselves about these things. This is a great mistake. It is the duty of all our intelligent boys and girls to think a little of what is going on. No Canadian is too young to begin. Few more interesting and profitable topics of household chitchat could be reserved for our Canadian tea-tables than what is best for the country we love so well. Just think of our great Sir John, or our great Mr. Laurier, with perhaps Lady Stanley listening in the Gallery, as they tell Parliament that the sharp eyes of a million YOUNG CANADIANS are watching everything, and that at a million Canadian firesides all public words and deeds shall be praised and imitated. Nothing will be a greater reward to our Parliaments than their approval, as we are sure nothing can be a greater disappointment than their disapproval.

Topics of the Day.

OUR CANADIAN FLAG.

BY SIR DANIEL WILSON, C.M.G., LL.D.

THE rank is anew claimed for Canada, in the prospectus of "THE YOUNG CANADIAN," as "The Brightest Jewel in the Crown of the British Empire." While cherishing a genuine Canadian spirit, with all its eager longings for a grand future for our Dominion, we can still rest proudly in our share of the common glories of the great Empire of which Canada forms so important a member. We cannot divorce ourselves if we would from the grand and glorious historic memories which are our inheritance as Canadians.

But there is one thing we stand in need of, and that is A FLAG, AND DISTINCTIVE HERALDIC BEARINGS of our own. England, Scotland, Ireland, and each Province of the Dominion has its Arms. But as for Canada as a political unit, all that has been done is to patch together the heterogeneous blazonry of Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and all the other Provinces, into a conglomeration that lacks all distinctive significance. Every additional Province increased its obscurity, till already it looks, for all the world, more like an ill-matched bit of patch-work bed cover, than a genuine Dominion Flag. When Assiniboia, Regina, and all the prospective Provinces of our great North-West follow in the wake of Manitoba and British Columbia, all discernible meaning will vanish from the multiform piece of nondescript quarterings.

Yet there should be no difficulty in devising a piece of genuine historical and emblematic heraldry for the Dominion as a loyal member of the Empire. It might be blazoned thus:—

- 1st Quarter: The Union Jack.
- 2nd Quarter: On a field argent, six fleurs de lys, three and three.
- 3rd Quarter: On a field azure, seven maple leaves, gules, two, three, and two.
- 4th Quarter: On a field or, within a double tressure, the Beaver proper.

Such a heraldic combination would tell of the history and growth of the Dominion; with the Imperial emblem of Union, the Lilies of France, the Maple of Canada, and the Beaver, a favourite emblem of the land of the old *coureur de bois*, and of the trappers of the great fur companies who laid the foundation of the North-West, and carried their enterprise beyond the Rocky Mountains. It would, moreover, present a distinctive flag, pleasing to the eye, and expressive in its emblematic heraldry. If a better can be suggested, let Young Canada try its hand, and devise a flag significant and acceptable to all. It involves no slight on the Imperial flag of the Empire that for a thousand years has floated in triumph by sea and land. We have already a Canadian flag, but one lacking all character, suggestive of no distinctive national or historical significance; and in no way calculated to awaken Canadian sympathies if it met our eyes in other lands. If we are to have a flag at all, let us have one that shall symbolise this Young Dominion; even as the Red Cross and the Leopards of England, the Ruddy Lion and the Thistle of Scotland, the Harp and the Trefoil of Ireland mark the distinctive individuality of those older members of the British Empire, "The Mother of Nations."