

in the formation of a national character ; a fact confirmed by all history ; for among the nations of antiquity, the fame of poet, philosopher, hero or statesman, belonged to the people : was celebrated by them in story and in song ; was incorporated into the national heart, and became a strong bond of national unity. So also has it been in later ages of the world.

Foremost in the array of antagonistic influences which have operated to discourage efforts at forming a Canadian literature, are those arising from national prejudices and religious animosities. That so many elements are combined in our population, has been considered Canada's greatest weakness ; as it is thought thus to contain within itself the germs of disintegration and disunion. Hence the necessity of a strong counter-acting influence in a literature freed from the trammels of partisan bigotry.

It is perfectly reasonable and natural that those who come to our shores from the old world, should look back with lingering affection and veneration to the land of their fathers, or dwell with tender and regretful emotion on the endearing name and memories of "Home," or yet, that they should feel a pardonable pride in its time-honored institutions and associations ; but that an intense national prejudice amounting to bitterness and leading to discord and strife, should usurp the place of those holier feelings, is greatly to be deplored.

And yet such is often the case. These people seem to think their only duty in the land of their adoption, is