

THE WELFARE OF CANADA.

BY WM. CANNIFF, M. D., TORONTO.

A REVIEW of political parties in a magazine ostensibly from a neutral stand-point, it might be expected, would be free from that strong language and imputation of corrupt and impure motive which too often disgrace newspaper party articles. Moreover, if we wish to elevate the tone and soften the asperities of party conflict, those who profess to look upon the parties from a higher plane—from a national point of view—should set an example of moderation in tone and exhibit some of that charity which always becomes a preacher, especially a preacher of a new doctrine. In criticizing the 'Review of Political Parties in Canada,' by Mr. Wm. Norris, a difficulty is met with in the style adopted, which, although it may be after a high model, makes it hard to understand exactly what the writer means, and it is a style which may lead one to express directly opposite views in the course of the same article.

Mr. Norris commences by telling us that the two parties in Canada are kept divided, 'not by principle, but by tendencies, and love of office, and that these tendencies had their origin many years ago, and are the legacies inherited from the American Revolution.' In the following paragraph we are informed that after Responsible Government was conceded the tendency toward Britain and British Institutions was the programme upon which the Conservative party was founded. It does seem strange that tendencies inherited from the last century should only lead to the formation of a pro-

gramme near the middle of the present century; and still more remarkable, that the U. E. Loyalists of 1776 should not before this have manifested a tendency toward Britain and British Institutions. Now is it not a fact, as any student of Canadian history must know, that it was attachment to Britain and British Institutions that made them U. E. Loyalists, made them the pioneers of Western Canada, and the fathers of the Dominion? Except a few rebels in 1837, and the Americans, who from time to time came into the country, all Canadians, all British Canadians, at least, professed the same attachment to the mother land. Even to-day, if the number of those opposed to British connection were added up, they could not be counted by the hundred out of the four million or more in the Dominion.

We are gravely told that 'it strikes the ordinary observer, that the programme of the Conservative party is finished.' Well, we should like to know what Mr. Norris calls an ordinary observer. Is he one with an artificial eye, or one who is short-sighted, or long-sighted, or is he a candidate for the Blind Asylum? Then, the uninformed toiling slaves of Canada have to learn that it was a fatuous dread of the United States, which, with a desire for office, led to the adoption by the Conservative party of the National Policy. However, this policy, Mr. Norris makes known, 'is successful and will be maintained . . . The industries and manufactures founded on the faith of the National Policy being per-