

TWO NEW MAGAZINES.

Two new magazines! The field for Canadian magazines has not hitherto seemed particularly bright or promising. Most of them have been starved, some to death. Is there place or need for two more?

I think this is a question which every thoughtful and earnest reader will feel inclined to answer in the affirmative, when brought face to face with the two of which we now speak. They are wanted in Canada. They should meet with a warm welcome in it. If generally diffused, they will be a "Home Mission Scheme" in themselves. Wherever they go, they will carry pure thoughts, good words, bright words of faith and hope and love to light up dark places and uplift drooping lives; the seeds of culture and refinement that, in time, may help to make rough places smooth, and the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose. They are meant to catch the eye and ear of the many, and they will tend to awaken and stimulate the taste for good and pure literature too scarce as yet among our people through which Canadian writers and Canadian magazines of a different class may hope by and by to increase the range of their readers.

These two magazines are pre-eminently magazines for the family—*Onward and Upward* for the elder ones—especially for the mothers and daughters, and a dainty little companion, appropriately named, *Wee Willie Winkie*, for the little ones who have not yet attained the dignity of "teens"—though there is much in its bright pages that might well interest older readers—especially the lovers of children and dumb animals. The first is edited by the energetic and gracious wife of our Governor-General—the Countess of Aberdeen—already well known among us for her labours of love for the good of her sex, and doubtless to be still more widely known and honoured as the years go on. The second has for its editor-in-chief, Lady Marjorie Gordon, aged thirteen, "assisted by her mother," as the title-page informs us. Of it let us speak first, as the prospectus of the Canadian edition is at hand. This little magazine grew, as all good things do grow, out of a tiny germ in the "Children's Corner" of the older magazine, *Onward and Upward*. Now it is a charming little monthly, with about twenty quarto pages, bright with admirable illustrations of child-life, animal-life, scenery, etc., with short tales, sketches, games, puzzles, simple historical questions, and last, not least, letters from its young readers describing whatever of interest has come within their observation. Such letters are invited by the youthful editor, and selections are made of those best suited for insertion. There are two prospectuses of the Canadian edition, one for the children themselves, the other evidently meant for the seniors, from each of which we quote a few sentences; the first quotation being addressed to Canadian children: "There is a great deal about your pretty country that Wee Willie wants to know, and that his bairns in other countries want to read. He wants to know what you are learning at school; how you like your lessons; how you manage your games; how you spend your evenings; how you get up your clubs, picnics, lacrosse matches; all about your friends, your tastes, your pets, and all about yourself. How you go fishing, boating, camping; how you go skating, snow-shoeing, tobogganing; where you go in summer, and what you do in winter. And how is he to know unless you tell him?"

This specimen will give a very good idea of the bright, cheery editorial writing, and will, we think, win the heart of children at once. The other quotation is a graver, more sober statement of its aim and purpose:

"It is to be hoped that this little magazine may find a field of usefulness in Canada as well as in the Old Country, and that it may serve as one more link between the children of the Old and New Worlds. Especially it is desired that it may find its way to children living in out-of-the-way parts of the Dominion, amongst the settlers on the prairie and the forests, who have but little opportunity of coming into touch with the outer world. A very warm welcome will be extended to contributions coming from such children to *Wee Willie Winkie* at Government House, Ottawa, and perhaps it may not be indiscreet to whisper that their Excellencies, the Governor-General and the Countess of Aberdeen hope through their little magazine to get into contact with the lives lived by many sections of the people of Canada, with whom, otherwise, they could not hope to come in touch."

These earnest and kindly words speak for themselves, and must bespeak the interest of many parents in the little periodical. To further attract the children, a liberal offer is made to the earliest subscriber. Many art-loving visitors to the Columbian Exposition will remember in the British gallery, a striking picture, entitled "Two Little Home-rulers," representing two happy-faced little fellows in corduroy suits and red vests, resting in careless, Paddy-like fashion upon a barrow of potatoes, which they had apparently been digging during their father's dinner hour. This, the catalogue informed us, represented the two younger sons of our Governor-General, the Hon. Dudley and Archie Gordon, and the prospectus of *Wee Willie* informs us that a chromo of this picture will be sent to the first Canadian subscribers who shall remit the fifty-cent subscription to Lady Marjorie Gordon, Government House, Ottawa. We are sure it scarcely needs this additional attraction to open many Canadian homes to *Wee Willie*, and its young editor!

Onward and Upward is, as its title indicates, older, graver, more mature, yet hardly less bright and animated. This also has grown from being the organ of a small local Association, organized by Lady Aberdeen for the benefit of the young women and the wives and mothers of her own vicinity. It now appeals to a wide circle of readers. Like the other, it is richly illustrated, and the pretty wood-cuts are not its least attraction, and are as varied as the contents. There are stories, biographical sketches, records of travel, studies of plants and animals, household receipts, directions for making useful articles, "hints to make home happy," historical and Scripture questions, etc., etc. The editorial paragraphs are bright and pointed, and the addresses of the editor, Lady Aberdeen, will be read with pleasure and profit by many. We can see for it, also, a wide field and a noble mission in Canada, especially in our remote country districts where good reading matter is scarce enough, being often limited, as regards current literature, to the weekly newspaper. The low price of both magazines, only fifty cents a year, puts them within reach of all save the very poorest, and to place them in the hands of these also would be a real and beautiful act of charity. To many children they will open a new world. They fill a vacant place and supply a missing link. Our literary magazines are too ex-

pensive except for the few, and many of our people are scarcely fitted to enjoy them. Our church papers are, in general, too ecclesiastical and too often too narrow to attract a wide circle of readers. These little magazines are as catholic in their scope and sympathy as is the interest of our Governor-General and his wife in the Canadian people. They are cosmopolitan, too, in character, and draw on the whole field of English literature and art. During the present year they will contain some Canadian stories and sketches by Canadian writers. If widely circulated they cannot fail to be potent factors in that higher education which develops not mind alone, but also the heart and the moral nature. For the good of Canada we must wish them a hearty God-speed in their noble work of cultivating true refinement of thought and feeling, true cultivation, true humanity and true patriotism. We may well adapt Lowell's beautiful lines in reference to such an enterprise:

It may be glorious to write
Thoughts that shall glad the two or three
High souls, like those far stars that come in
sight

Once in a century;—

But better far it is to speak
One simple word, which now and then,
Shall waken their true nature in the weak
And friendless sons of men;

To write some earnest verse or line,
Which seeking not the praise of art,
Shall make a clearer faith and manhood shine
In the untutored heart.

He who doth thus, in verse or prose,
May be forgotten in his day,
But surely shall be crowned at last with those
Who live and speak for aye!

FIDELIS.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MINORITY OF IRELAND.

To the Editor of The Week:

Sir,—“As long as we had power we persecuted; at last the very English half prevented us; the majority would persecute us if they had the chance; therefore restore to us at least the power and persecute the minority—if we like.”

That is the way this misguided minority argues in its “merciless policy of fear.” Facts present and past have no effect on them; nor can counter arguments or even demonstrations cool them—full as they are of hot minority-rule-majority-and-keep-them-down fads which would upset the existing condition of things, if applied to any other country in Christendom, would annex Canada to the United States, or establish Confucianism as its religion, make France a monarchy, and re-connect England on the spot with St. Peter's chair.

These things may be good or may be bad. But we lay down a general rule that it is better not to get them by the minority-forcing-majority way: And the attempt is being gradually made to apply this rule to Ireland.

The only opposing answer is (as Mr. Gladstone says) that you must remember the double dose of original sin in the Irish majority.

How this shows itself has been often noted. And yet some people will not look and see. So perhaps an Irish Protestant may be allowed once again to quote and demonstrate a little. The following is from Mr. Grant Allen—an Irish Protestant by descent, it seems, but actually by birth a Canadian Protestant, is he not?

Alas! for us Irish Protestants. If only we could sit in our right minds. We have been such fools—going to Bedlam for our principles, as was said by a great one of our number.

If only we did not “know quite so many things that are not so.” But here is Mr. Grant Allen, writing of Professor Tyndall