

increased during the last ten years by as much as eighty per cent. . . So far as it is possible to arrive at any conclusion, the number of manufacturing firms and retail shops in London has during the past ten years kept pace with the increase of the population, or has even grown somewhat faster; while the number of separate textile factories, instead of diminishing, as Karl Max predicted, increased from 6,307 in 1870 to 7,465 in 1885."

Without going further into details, Mr. Mallock contents himself with observing that the whole Socialistic view of the existing situation is wrong—"certainly so far as regards Europe, pre-eminently so far as regards England"; and he believes himself right in adding, "with regard to America, also." At any rate, he unhesitatingly maintains that so far as the modern system of industrialism, which is practically the same in England and in America, is concerned, "the natural tendency of that system, as is shown by England, which is its most complete example, instead of being, as the Socialists"—may we not add, "and many who are not Socialists?"—"say, to make the rich ever richer, the poor ever poorer, and to crush out the middle classes, has been for the past fifty or sixty years, and is at the present moment, to make the rich more numerous indeed, but slightly poorer; to multiply the middle class far faster than the rich, and to lift the masses of the people farther and farther above poverty."

If all this be so, how are we to account for the wide acceptance of the opposite belief, a belief which Mr. Mallock admits is very far from being held by Socialists and revolutionists only? This strange fact Mr. Mallock proceeds to account for. While he is constrained to grant that there are a large number of facts which make the view he is combating "eminently plausible" he proceeds to give his explanation of the cause of the mistake. This explanation, which he puts forth with characteristic confidence, may be summed up in a sentence. The mistake is due to the failure of those who make it, to proceed to their conclusions by the only logical method, that of percentages. When a village of five hundred inhabitants grows, in a comparatively short period, into a city of fifty thousand, "*economic impressionists*," finding a pauper class of one thousand in the city, and forgetting that the twenty-five paupers of the original village constituted really a much larger percentage of the whole population, hastily conclude that poverty is on the increase to an enormous extent. They fail to perceive that in order to determine whether pauperism has increased, it is not the absolute but the relative amount we must consider. This is the sum and substance of the explanation. The least that can be said of it is that it is by no means complimentary to the arithmetical acumen, or even to the rough common sense, of those who can suffer themselves to be misled by a fallacy so transparent that a clever child of ten would not allow himself to be taken in by it.

It is to be earnestly hoped that Mr. Mallock's facts and statistics are much more reliable than his explanation is convincing. The question is one of intense, of vital interest. It is well that so able a controversialist has entered the field in defence of the present industrial system. It is in the highest degree desirable that others who have time and ability may proceed with the investigation on the basis of fact. If it can be clearly proved that the tendency of the present industrial system is, as he claims, distinctly favourable for the masses, every sensible philanthropist will see the necessity of seeking not to change, but to improve it, whereas the establishment of the opposite opinion would be an equally conclusive reason for hastening to replace it with a better.

### CANADIAN LITERATURE.

#### CHAPTER I. (Concluded.)

The student of Canadian literature has the same trouble in tracing the beginnings of his subject which those experience who try to trace genealogies in this country. Records are so imperfect that little is left but names, which are themselves often little more than traditional. The early Canadian settlers were too busy and had too little idea that anything they were doing, saying or writing was of importance to take pains enough to keep from perishing what everyone now knows would have been almost invaluable to any one attempting to chronicle the history of the country or of its literature.

In the course of my reading for these sketches I have come across several names in each of the Provinces of persons said to be gifted in poetry or imaginative prose, but little is to be found beyond the names.

Among those prominent in the earlier literature of Canada but few are from Ontario. Those I have found are: J. G. Ward, sometime editor of the *Cobourg Reformer*, who published his didactic poem, "*The Spring of Life*," in Montreal, 1834; Dan. Haydn Mayne, whose "*Poems and Fragments*" were published in Toronto in 1830, and Dr. Robert Douglas Hamilton, a very frequent contributor to Canadian magazines and newspapers under the pseudonym "*Guy Pollock*." The latter is said to have left a good deal of valuable manuscript to be published by a friend.

As is naturally to be expected, the Province of Quebec at this time was richer in writers. A most prolific author was Mrs. H. Bayley, who contributed many sketches to the *Museum* in 1832-34. Others are Levi Adams, who wrote in the *Canadian Magazine*; Rev. Geo. Bourne, whose work, "*The Picture of Quebec*," was published in 1729, 2nd ed. 1831. His "*Lorette*" came out in London. Wm. Fitz-Hawley published two volumes of poetry in 1829 and 1831; Adam Kidd is said to have shown good powers of versification, but died too young to do mature work. Mrs. M. E. Sawtell was a contributor to the *Literary Garland* and published a volume of religious poetry in 1840. John Williamson's work was received very favourably, and the name of J. H. Willis closes our list.

New Brunswick contributed very little to our early literature. G. E. Fenety, a

journalist, wrote "*The Lady and the Dress-maker*," which appeared in St. John, and Jas. Hogg published "*Poems*" at St. John, 1825, and a second volume of "*Religious, Moral and Sentimental Poems*," at Fredericton.

To Nova Scotia belong the great Haliburton, whose life and works have already been sketched, and, curious to relate, Oliver Goldsmith, who published "*The Rising Village*" in London, 1825. A second edition is said to have appeared in St. John, 1834. Bishop Inglis, of Nova Scotia, wrote a favourable introduction and the *Canadian Review and Magazine* gave a very flattering review of the poem, going so far as to find evidence of the relationship claimed with the greater Oliver in the similarity of treatment with that of the "*Deserted Village*," in the same easy flow of the verse and in the other characteristics.

Outside of Canada the one event which seemed to call forth the efforts of loyal poets was the conquest of Quebec. This was told in poetry by two Oxford men, Howard in 1768 and Hazard in 1769, as well as by Geo. Cockings in 1766 and Henry Murphy in 1790. One American author, Henry Finn, told the story of Montgomery (Boston, 1821). I have already mentioned the "*History of Emily Montague*," by Mrs. Frances Brooke, with its scenes in and around Quebec and Montreal. Peter Parley (G. S. Goodrich) also wrote "*Tales about Canada*" and a Thos. Cowdell is said to have published "*A Poetical Account of the American Campaigns of 1812-1815* (Halifax, 1815).

From the foregoing it will be seen that the principal names in our first chapter of Canadian literature are those of Judge Haliburton (Sam Slick) and Major John Richardson. The latter very bitterly complained that he might as well have published in Kamtchatka as in Canada, so little interest was taken in Canadian literature; and if Prof. Goldwin Smith's answer to the query, "*What is the matter with Canadian Literature?*" is correct, the same complaint might possibly be made even to-day. But we can afford to be optimistic rather than pessimistic, for unless all signs fail the outlook is improving.

L. E. HORNING.

### MONTREAL LETTER.

The past week was unmarked by any great event. Nearly everybody has got back from the seaside and other summer resorts and once more the shutters are thrown open, the cobwebs swept away and lights burn cheerfully in the houses that have been so long closed up. The Horticultural show in the Victoria Rink was a success in every respect. The illumination of Bleury Street, by the residents thereon, created a mild sensation; the iceman commenced collecting his bills and the eclipse came off at the appointed time.

The French man-of-war, *Nielly*, spent the greater part of last week in this port and was officially entertained by the city. There was the usual drive through the city and around the mountain and the usual luncheon afterwards. Commander Deschamps said it was a pleasure to find himself amongst a French-speaking population. It was like being in France, but in a France of a special character, where everyone was free under a liberal government. The *Nielly* is one of the squadron charged with the protection of the French fisheries of

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