

by an insatiable desire to be thought to possess a distinct national tone in everything, and they have not been gifted with the dignity or patience to wait till a national tone, national sports, and national customs have grown with the growth of the commonwealth, and become gradually endeared by long associations of the national mind. The result is a ludicrous haste to adopt something, no matter what, so it be different from anything European, especially from anything English. The aspiration is in itself a very respectable one, but it would seem that the national invention, being unequal to some of these requirements, has after all been fain to put up with and adopt copies of European ideas not always selected with the happiest judgment. Thus the American patriot—spurning the English game of cricket, partly, no doubt, because it is English, but also perhaps because it involves too quiet and regular a discipline to suit the peculiar loose and unrestrained tone of the American mind—takes refuge in what? A real original national game? No! But the old English schoolboy game of rounders, which he calls base-ball, and dignifies with the title of his "national game."

Now, it is no discredit to America that she does not possess much that can be called really national, except her brag, beyond the observance of Thanksgiving day and the 4th of July. There was little enough that could be called national in "merrie England" for a hundred years after the Norman Conquest; doubtless little enough in Rome for a still longer period after Romulus gathered his brigands together: and America is not likely to settle down to a strictly national tone sooner than any other nation mainly formed by the agglomeration of scraps from all parts of the world; a species of growth, moreover, of which she is perhaps a more conspicuous example, as to the quality of her heterogeneous accessions of population, than any other power in the world, either ancient or modern!

The object of this digression from the subject of light literature is, perhaps, not very apparent. It has, however, this end: there is a want of reliance on the power of the nation to assert itself in due time by the production of a national game or a national style of wit (which latter, in fact, it has, though as yet somewhat of the coarsest), which has reduced the Americans in both cases to a servile copyism. And this lack of national self-confidence is analogous to that which leads Canadian journalists to open their pages to American ideas rather than to trust to native talent, or even to borrow from the far clearer and more abundant sources of English secondary literature. This want of national self-assertion is, moreover, entirely unjustifiable in Canadians. Even in the comparatively unimportant matter of a national game, Canada has the advantage of possessing one (La-

crosse) which may really claim the attribute of nationality; and the improvement noticed by the VOLUNTEER REVIEW in the style and matter of the *New Dominion Monthly* is alone sufficient guarantee that our journalists have not so far to seek for wholesome pabulum to administer to their clients that they need be under obligation to inferior American writers or their still lower imitators. If we seek for the reason why our railway cars are flooded with American papers and American cheap novels; if we seek for a reason why our journalists, having butter and honey at command, perversely and persistently choose the evil and reject the good, we are at a loss to discover any more potent than the simple fact of the unfortunate propinquity of an overflowing foreign penny-a-line literature, acting on laziness and bad taste.

There can be no deep sympathy on the part of Canadians with the details of American society; for the domestic life of Canada is not the domestic life of the States. Our manners, habits, customs, tone of mind, are so essentially different that we have known prosperous Canadians of the roughest stamp and of the most active energy sicken for the repose of home amidst the whirl and turmoil with which the furious worship of the almighty dollar is solemnized across the lakes. In sober truth there is little in the tone of American society or literature which Canada should seek to copy or adopt; much, rather, in which she stands superior to the States. If we lack some of the enterprise which characterizes our neighbours, we cultivate better what is far more essential to reasonable happiness—domestic ties and attachments. Without asserting extreme national morality, we have at least a national pride strong enough to preserve us from unholy hankerings after repudiation, and we are not sunk to the depth of social infamy indicated by the five thousand divorces per annum which disgrace the laws and the courts of Indiana.

Never did nation possess fairer or more honorable record to start from. Public honesty, public morality, public education, all of a high stamp. Warfare in which, while yet in her infancy, she has defended her territory with unblemished honor and distinguished success. What remains to consolidate a proud nationality of feeling but that the press should emancipate itself from all unworthy imitations of paltry and meretricious examples, and rightly perform its legitimate function of elevating the taste of the people by drawing its lighter inspirations from a purer and a higher source?

G. W.

THE CHAMPION MEDAL.—The firing for the champion gold medal of the Victoria Cadets, presented to that corps by I. B. Taylor, Esq., proprietor of the *Ottawa Citizen*, came off yesterday at the Rideau Rifle Range, at one o'clock in the afternoon. The day was beautifully fine, though a little gusty at times.

The firing was at 100, 200 and 300 yards, and, considering that it was the first day's practice for the young marksmen this year, the scores were very good. The honor of wearing the champion badge of the corps for the coming year fell to Master John McCracken for a score of 27 points out of a possible 40, and seven points less than that by which Master Charles Robertson won it last season. Lieut. Col. Wily offered for the occasion a second premium of twenty rounds of ammunition for the boy making the second highest score, which was won by Master Gerald Bate for 24 points. The following is a list of the competitors, with their scores in detail:—

	100.	200.	300.	T'l.
Chas. Robertson.....	2333	223	000	.18
G. Bate.....	2333	033	304	.24
R. Berry.....	0000	000	000	.00
J. Ogilvie.....	2203	222	020	.15
J. Langrell.....	0222	323	000	.14
W. Sweetman.....	4243	220	000	.17
J. Cawthry.....	2222	020	000	.10
W. Proud.....	2203	000	003	.10
B. Monck.....	0223	000	000	.7
G. Mondelet.....	2222	000	000	.8
J. McCracken.....	4423	303	422	.27
James McCracken....	2223	023	200	.16

The firing being concluded, Mr. Thorburn, the Principal of the School, came forward and pinned it on the winner's breast, congratulating him on his success and expressing a hope that those who had been defeated this season would try all the harder to pull up the next. The boys then gave three hearty cheers for the victor, and three for the donor of the medal, after which they dispersed. The squad during the day was under the command of Mr. McMillan, who acts as Captain of the Corps.—*Ottawa Citizen*.

THE CURRIER MEDAL.—We understand that the competition for the Currier Medal between the Victoria and Ottawa Cadet Corps will take place in the course of a few days. The Medal is one presented by our city representative, J. M. Currier, Esq., M. P., for competition between these two Cadet Corps annually, until it shall be won two years in succession by one of them, when it becomes the property of the Corps. At present it is in the hands of the Victoria's having been won by them last.—*Ibid*.

FROM THE FRONT.—We are glad to hear from Prescott that our City Volunteers now on duty there have got fairly into their canvas quarters and are perfectly comfortable and well satisfied with the arrangements made for them. We trust the eight days at "the front" will be both pleasurable and profitable to them, and we are sure that the high character, borne by the Brigade of Artillery, for good conduct and attention to duty, will be fully maintained by them on the present occasion. Their officers, we know, always display the greatest interest in their Batteries and will neglect nothing which will conduce to the credit or comfort of the men under their command.—*Ibid*.

Advices from Maseatlan, Mexico, state that Loszardo had sent a contemptuous reply to the demand of the general Government to annul his late edicts, and was himself preparing for war, although it is believed the Government dare not attack him.

The *Herald's* Washington special says the Government seems to have a great deal of trouble to get rid of Surratt. It is now stated that in a day or two Surratt will be discharged altogether, though it may turn out that he will not suffer himself to be discharged without the luxury of another trial, and the Government may yet have to pay him a good round sum.