

Canada and its people can never rise to proper consideration and dignity.

In reflecting on this more recent movement against freedom of reading, we are reminded of the attempt made a few years since by the Directors, for the time being, of the Mercantile Library Association, to exclude one particular newspaper from its reading room, on account of its special theological character. In this case the attempt to construct an Expurgatory Index, sprung simply from sectarian prejudice, while in the matter of l'Institut-Canadien, whatever sectarian prejudice existed was covered by the more comprehensive plea of a dislike to polemic theology in general. It is gratifying to the friends of enlightened progress to know, and remember, that in both instances, on a full and mature call of the whole body of members, they, by the vote of the majority, decided against the principle of an Index Expurgatory, and in favor of freedom of reading.

Freedom to think, freedom to speak, freedom to read.
This must be the motto of every progressive community.

BOOK NOTICE.

THE ALTAR AT HOME: Prayers for the Family and the Closet. Boston : American Unitarian Association. For sale in Montreal at the office of H. & G. M. Rose, Great St. James Street.

THIS is a manual of domestic devotion, recently issued by the Unitarian Association, and edited by the Secretary, Rev. Dr. Miles. Its contents are valuable and various, and the arrangement, as it seems to us, is excellent. We have here nearly a hundred forms of prayer for morning and evening, prepared by twenty-five ministers, who had been applied to for the purpose. We have, besides, several forms of occasional prayer, some of the ancient Collects of the Church, and a few Litanies, chiefly in the language of Scripture, suited for alternate reading, when the whole family desire to join in the audible expression. Instead of being marked off according to the days of the week, the prayers are each distinguished by a special title indicative of its prevailing sentiment, as "God our Keeper," "Cheerful Homage," "God in Christ," "Seeking Pardon," &c., &c., and introduced by a brief and appropriate Scripture lesson. By this arrangement, the worshipper is enabled to make his selection more in accordance with the existing state of his mind, than he could by the more common one. We hope the book will find a wide circulation among the families of our churches, and do good service in helping to keep alive the sacred flame of devotion on the domestic altar.