

CHAPTER II.

IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES.

"So far as mere commercial and material progress is concerned, a heterogeneous people may be as successful as any. But where depth and not breadth is concerned, that freedom from distraction and multiplicity which results from the prevalence of a distinct type and the universality of certain standards and ideals seems almost essential to the development of extraordinary products in any line."—*Hall*.

Almost every city, town and village throughout Western Canada has its "Germantown." Foreigners of various nationalities have taken up their abodes in segregated areas, where rents are as a rule low and sanitary and housing conditions poor. They have their own churches and their own newspapers, and sometimes their own fraternal societies. Little English is spoken, and their ideas and customs remain foreign. Here are bits of Bohemia, Italy, Russia, Hungary, transferred to this side of the Atlantic and set down in our cities. Few assimilative agencies penetrate to these back streets. An occasional visit from a ward politician too often affords the only indication of interest in their presence. Were it not for the fact that their children are