

the epithets "fanatic" and "maw worm." The *Globe* might reply by reminding its offended sister that Sara has received the public homage of the Prince and the Princess of Wales. As the expression of its own sentiments, the *Canada Presbyterian* gives an extract from the letter of a reverend gentleman, who calls this adorable woman not only "dirty, impudent and offensive," but a name which a lay journalist cannot venture to repeat. A lay journalist, however, will hardly go beyond the mark in saying, that the enthusiasm which greets Sara Bernhardt, not only on the stage but off it, is a phenomenon characteristic of the age, and one which affords matter for reflection. Americans can never help flinging themselves at the feet of celebrity, especially when it comes to them accredited by European opinion, which, and English opinion above all, they regard with excessive deference. So far as they are concerned, their raptures about Sara Bernhardt and their wild competition for tickets to see her, are notoriety-worship and nothing more. But the homage paid her in England by the cynosures of society, no doubt, denotes a change of sentiment. The science of ethics is in a state of transition. Calling Sara's peculiarities "French" is an unjust reflection on the French character: nowhere is domestic affection stronger, nowhere are its manifestations in family life more beautiful than among the French people generally, and especially in the rural districts. But there is a circle, principally in Paris, of which the sentiment is that embodied in a number of well-known works of fiction. To this circle, Sara Bernhardt, if current biography speaks the truth about her, would appear to belong, and to its account her errors may be charged more justly than to her own. For our part, we do not want to pry into any one's private life, or to set up a standard of which, in matters perhaps not less important than sexual regularity, we may ourselves fall miserably short. In the Old World it is possible that the enthusiasm for culture or dramatic art may, in the case of a magnificent actress, overpower all other thoughts and save the devotee from harm. In communities like ours, this can hardly be the case, and, as regular