

CANADA TO CARNEGIE

By J. MACDONALD OXLEY

THE man who imagines that the measure of his wealth is the measure of his wisdom commits at the outset a grievous error, which inevitably leads to greater ones. Of this you, sir, afford a conspicuous instance. Essentially a self-made man, for which let all credit be given you, it may be added that you entertain quite too exalted an opinion of your maker. Having founded one of the greatest industrial enterprises in the world's history, and so become a money-king, you have upon the strength of that achievement assumed the role of prophet and teacher. You have put forth a work entitled "Triumphant Democracy," wherein you undertake to show that no other form of government, no other methods of business, no other canons of knowledge can stand comparison with those of the United States, and yet—curiously enough—having "made your pile," you have betaken yourself to effete old England, there to spend your days and your dollars in anything but Jeffersonian simplicity.

On more than one occasion you have seen fit to pay your respects to Canada in a way that has not been conducive towards the growth of that good feeling which otherwise your donations for libraries would have tended to promote. You have opened your mouth, and then put your foot in it, so to speak, and, although, upon reflection, you have deemed it expedient to materially modify your first utterances, and have even endeavored to make them out as being mere *obiter dicta*, and not carefully-considered conclusions, nevertheless the sting has remained, and you are in consequence very far from being so well-beloved in the Dominion as your brother Scot, Lord Strathcona, for instance, whose engaging modesty you might do well to emulate.

It is very evident from what you have let fall in this off-hand manner, and which is therefore all the more likely to fairly represent your mind, that the extent of your actual knowledge of

Canada is by no means so great as you would like the public to believe. In fact, the very positiveness of your prophecies, when taken in conjunction with the curious ignoring of actual conditions, arouses the suspicion that, to your mind, the wish has been father to the thought, and it is not so much what may happen as what you are desirous should happen, that you take pleasure in foretelling.

What do you know about Canada anyway? Have you ever studied her history, either personally or by proxy, as it is understood you have prepared your books? Have you traversed her vast domain from the Atlantic to the Pacific? Have you made the acquaintance of her people, who, despite your lightsome statement, are not "mostly Scotch," but are a rare blend of

"The English honor, nerve and pluck ; the Scotsman's love of right ;
The grace and courtesy of France ; the Irish fancy bright."

These be pertinent questions, which, in the modern language of the street, it is "up to you" to answer satisfactorily ere your comments and criticisms can be accepted as having authority.

Before proceeding to present to you some considerations that, if you are at all open to reason, should not fail of modifying your views, it is interesting to speculate as to the exciting cause of your manifest animus against Canada. Wherein, we ask, have we offended? We have sought no quarrel at your hands. On the contrary, we have perhaps been over-ready to accept your bounty, and in other ways contribute to the growth of your *amour propre*.

Can it be that, notwithstanding your brave talk to the effect that nothing here should ever trouble the United States, that our steel industry is a figment, and Cape Breton a mirage; that, standing alone, we can never become a great industrial nation; and that we have no future, save as a part of the United States; notwithstanding all this, you,