

our history can hardly afford to the pupil the rich results which spring from what Dr. Bourinot terms the "deep humanized soil of the Old World, which has for ages been enriched by the ripe droppings of a fertile national life; when

"One half the soil has walked the rest,
In poets, heroes, martyrs, sages,"

we can, nevertheless, feel as comparatively proud of the last hundred years as of the far greater period which we have the privilege of studying as sharers in the wide heritage of British power.

Too much stress, in the opinion of many, is laid upon the events of a very distant past. Why should a student of to-day know all about Cæsar and little or nothing about the Dominion of Canada? It is, I claim, the consistent inculcation of history from a patriotic standpoint which would remedy this defect. To teach love of country properly, to infuse the genuine sentiment into the minds of pupils, the annals of Wallace and Bruce, Marlborough or Wellington, will be of little use, unless the method of Professor Seeley be more or less adopted, and the course of instruction prove clearly the continuity of history and the way in which, for instance, an action occurring under the reign of King John could affect the Canadian citizen of to-day, or the commercial wars of centuries ago form the basis of our present Imperial structure. It is in this sequence of events that I believe is to be found the true method of imparting life to the necessarily dry bones of an ordinary school history, and inculcating the lessons of patriotism really contained in what appears at first sight to the scholar a mere list of facts and dates.

In our Constitution, also, rests the glories of a thousand years. Not so much in that piece of parchment called the British North America Act, but in the unwritten code of princi-

ples which represents the struggles and aspirations of centuries. I do not know of any description of our British institutions so striking, comprehensive and eloquent as that contained in a letter written by Benjamin Disraeli, then just entering Parliament, to Lord Lyndhurst, some sixty years ago:

"If neither ancient ages nor the more recent experience of our newer time can supply us with a parallel instance of a free-government founded on the broadest basis of popular rights, yet combining with democratic liberty, aristocratic security and monarchical convenience; if the refined spirit of Greece, if the brilliant genius of feudal Italy, if the great Roman soul, alike failed in realizing this great result, let us cling with increased devotion to the matchless creation of our ancestors, and honour with still deeper feelings of gratitude and veneration the English Constitution. That Constitution established civil equality in a rude age, and anticipated by centuries in its beneficent practice the sublime theories of modern philosophy; having made us equal it has kept us free. If it has united equality with freedom, so also it has connected freedom with glory. It has established an Empire which combines the durability of Rome with the adventure of Carthage. It has at the same time secured us the most skilful agriculture, the most extended commerce, the most ingenious manufactures, victorious armies and invincible fleets. Nor has the intellectual might of England under its fostering auspices been less distinguished than its imperial spirit, its manly heart, or its national energy, and it has secured to me in common with every subject of this realm a right — the enjoyment of which I would not exchange for 'The ermined stole, the starry breast and coroneted brow'—the right of expressing my free thoughts to a free people."