

ROSE-BELFORD'S  
CANADIAN MONTHLY  
AND NATIONAL REVIEW.

Edited by G. MERCER ADAM.

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TEN years ago the present writer in forecasting, in an early prospectus, the future of THE CANADIAN MONTHLY, which had just then been launched, ventured to express the hope that the day would come when its *twenty-first* volume would be reaching reading communities in the valleys of the Red River and the Saskatchewan, by express trains on a Canadian Pacific Railway. Such has been the material progress of the Dominion within the past decade that the prediction, in regard to the settlement of the region and the facilities the railway would afford, is in a fair way to be literally fulfilled. Gratifying as this fact is, may not that of the existence, throughout the period, of a national periodical, which may be taken as a fair expression of Canadian thought and culture, be hailed with equal satisfaction? It is true, that it has been the fashion to speak lightly of the product of Canadian intellect, and to scout its aspirations and ambitions. Talk so flippant and unpatiotic as this, has, indeed, too long stuck like a dart in the flanks of the country. But we are happily now growing out of this habit of self-depreciation, and are beginning to be assured that the era of intellectual production has at length dawned for Canada. How instrumental THE CANADIAN MONTHLY has been in advancing this era, and in infusing the literary spirit among the people, neither the patrons of the Magazine nor the discerners of the nation's intellectual life require to be told. It is not, of course, claimed that THE MONTHLY has done all that it might have done for Canadian literature or for our native writers. Within the measure of its ability, and so far as public support has permitted, it has however endeavoured to be helpful to the cause it set out to serve, viz. : that of stimulating the higher thought of the country and of providing a fitting vehicle for the expression of native contemporary opinion. In prosecuting this work, a restiveness, in some quarters, has occasionally betrayed itself, in respect to the latitude given to writers on religious and political subjects, which we were of the opinion that it was not the business of the dispassionate conductor of a professedly national Magazine in any degree to restrict. This matter, it is feared, has hardly been rightly understood; and we take occasion to say that while it is alike the aim of the Editor and the Publishers that the Magazine shall preserve a high religious tone, and, in the broad interests of our common country, foster an elevating and helpful national sentiment, it is desired that this shall be maintained, as in the case of the leading English and American Reviews, by giving a large hospitality to every shade of tolerant opinion. Continuing to observe this neutrality in the conduct of the Magazine, we shall at the same time seek discreetly to exclude everything likely to give serious offence to any portion of the community, and aim to devote its columns to the instruction and entertainment of all classes of the people. In this work, it is hoped that THE CANADIAN MONTHLY will, in an increasing degree, receive the support and favour of the Canadian people, and be enabled to go on in another decade of useful activity, with growing vigour, and that measure of success most helpful to the cause of Canadian letters.

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THE EDITOR.