

Acta Victoriana

A MONTHLY JOURNAL,

Published during the College Year by the Union Literary Society in
the interests of Victoria University, her Students,
Alumni and Friends.

VOL. XXI. TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1897.

No. 3.

CANADIAN LITERATURE.



A VERY few years ago there was scarcely a single person bold enough to utter above a whisper the words which stand at the head of this article. But times have changed, and now there are many who fume and fret if the name of a single rhymer be omitted, be the quantity or quality of the work never so small. There are, however, still some left who smile rather incredulously at the mention of the term, and a few even ask for a show of cause. Let us see just how the matter

stands, and perhaps in the end we may all agree.

In his sketch of American literature, Richardson remarks that the English is the only world literature that has sent out an offshoot such as the American literature. He forgot, however, as is quite customary with our friends to the south of us, that there are two offshoots rather than one, namely, American and Canadian; indeed, it is not yet decided which of the two gives more promise of ripe fruition. If, then, any person protest that Canadian literature have no independent existence apart from the English, it is quite possible to use many of the self-same arguments against the existence of a true American literature. But Richardson forgot still another fact, the existence of the French in Canada; and in the literature of French Canada we