

INTRODUCTION.

It is well understood that Canadian authors have very generally failed to enlist the sympathy and encouragement of the reading public of our country ; but the reason of this indifference may not be so apparent to the casual observer. Yet it is but too certain that the direct effect of this has been to chill and repress the growth of native talent, and to retard the much-to-be desired period, when party and sectional feelings and jealousies shall be merged in a broad and comprehensive Canadian nationality.

An "Introductory Essay," prefixed to a volume of "Poems from Canadian Authors," which was published in Montreal some few years since, contains so much that is sensible and just, and withal so relevant to the subject under consideration, that it has been largely drawn from in the preparation of a short introductory chapter.

The importance of encouraging and building up a literature decidedly Canadian, commends itself to the intelligent and patriotic, with all the strength of conviction. A national literature is an essential element

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