

And while on this subject of University Chairs, we beg to renew our appeal for professorships of Canadian History. We do not mean mere lessons subsidiary or supplementary to classes of history in general, but distinctly and solely to the history—the magnificent history of our country, for over two hundred and fifty years. The need of such a chair becomes more urgent every year, especially for the period of English rule, which is unknown, although abounding with most interesting and complicated events and measures. The constitutional history of Canada is perhaps alone of its kind, being composed of elements—heterogeneous and almost hostile of themselves—but which have been handled with so much foresight and insight, in the true spirit of statesmanship, that the whole has resulted in making Canadians to-day the freest and happiest people on the face of the earth.

A DOMINION JUBILEE.

One of the oldest and most influential bodies of this city, the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal, has issued a circular suggesting a World's Fair in 1892, to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of Montreal. The object is a bold one at first sight, but a careful reading of the paper shows that it is both quite timely and feasible. The date chosen is the happiest possible, as several events of the highest importance combine to make it worthy and easy of accomplishment:—

I. Montreal's position as the foremost city of the Dominion.

II. The 250 years, ending 1892, virtually embrace the whole history of Canada, from the beginning to our day.

III. The year 1892 will be the Fifth Jubilee of Montreal, and therefore five times more worthy of being celebrated.

IV. The same year is the 400th anniversary of the Discovery of America by Columbus.

By the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Canada has become the great highway between Europe and the East, and no scheme could be devised which would do more to make both Europe and Asia contribute to the prosperity and development of our country than bringing them together in Montreal. The Grand Trunk Railway and our other lines, with our steamship companies, would reap immediate and direct benefits from the increase in passenger traffic, and still more in freight. Moreover, the country would be magnificently advertised; new markets as well as new avenues of trade would be opened up for both agricultural and manufactured products; attention would be called to our great resources and natural advantages; immigration would be stimulated, and foreign capital would probably be attracted here for investment; for though our manufacturers may be in excess of present demands, there is a wide field for work in the development of our mineral resources.

The very circumstance of our different provinces being brought together in a friendly rivalry, in a way which would do credit to the whole country, would do much to cement their union, increase the pride and confidence of Canadians in the future of their country, and foster a self-reliant patriotism, founded on an intelligent understanding of the advance already made and the possibilities of the future.

In addition to the general benefits to the country at large, Montreal could not fail to benefit

immensely. Many thousands would be added to the population of the city for several months; this addition would consist of consumers; and all of those trades which minister to the daily wants and comforts of the community would receive a proportionate impetus.

The prospects of success are exceedingly good. There can be little doubt that the number of exhibits would be large. The United States would be sure to be well represented: their proximity, combined with a desire to extend their trade, would secure that. Mexico, we are assured, will enter into the idea heartily, the government being likely to send a very good exhibit. The South American countries, though not so enterprising as our neighbours, will probably be represented. The revived interest which France is taking in Canada, in addition to the desire for new markets, should secure hearty co-operation from her. Besides France, no doubt Spain and Italy, as well as Belgium, Sweden and Norway, would be represented; and, judging from the present volume of their trade with Canada, the Germans would certainly not be behind the others. As for Great Britain, we may count on the most hearty sympathy and active co-operation there, both from the Government and from private enterprise. We might get a very fine Loan Art exhibition like that sent to Melbourne this year, which would prove a most valuable attraction. Then with good exhibits from India and our sister colonies, we would certainly have a more varied and probably a more extensive exhibition than that of the Colonies and India in London in the year 1886, which was an unquestioned success. We should remember that the governments or individuals who might not think the Canadian market worth troubling about, would be very glad to reach the United States through us.

But even if all this foreign co-operation did not come, there would still remain an alternative scheme, which could be carried out with perfect success at considerably less expense and with a minimum of risk: namely, that of a British and Colonial Exhibition, similar to that of the Colonies and India held in London in 1886, with the addition of a magnificent display from Great Britain and Ireland. It would be very important to have India extensively and thoroughly represented, and there need be no anxiety on this point, as Lord Lansdowne's active co-operation may be counted upon to make the Indian department complete and attractive. The Australian Colonies, in simple justice, could hardly do less than reciprocate the advances we have made in participating in their Jubilee and Centennial Exhibitions, and they, if they take up the idea at all, will do so heartily, we may be sure, and in such a way as to rival the Dominion itself. As for Great Britain, the desire or perhaps even the necessity of meeting American competition would tend to make the British Section all that could be desired in beauty, variety and extent. Canada has made immense strides in material progress of late years, and one great advantage of an International Exhibition on her own soil would be the opportunity for making a display commensurate with her advance in the industrial arts and the extent of her natural resources, without having to incur the trouble and expense unavoidable in sending a large number of exhibits to a great distance.

The expense should be moderate. So many exhibitions are going on simultaneously that in a

short time a number of excellent buildings will be for sale and obtainable at perhaps one-fourth or one-fifth of the cost of a new building. Then again we have a good site. The present Exhibition grounds are finely situated, and there is a considerable extent of vacant property adjoining which could be utilized for such a special occasion. The tract between Mount Royal avenue and Pine avenue, Park avenue and Upper St. Urbain is about 34 acres; there is a similar tract lying west of Park avenue, and another addition might be made to the northwest, so that 70 or 80 acres could be added for that year to the present Exhibition grounds. While these figures do not reach the proportions of Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, there should be ample room, seeing that the extent of the Antwerp exhibition grounds of 1885 were only 54½ acres that of Liverpool, 1886, only 35 acres; that of Glasgow, being held now, 60 acres.

Ways and means. No doubt, if Montreal desires the benefit of such an undertaking, the citizens of Montreal must be prepared to subscribe handsomely to a guarantee fund; and it promises well for success that our enterprising business men are already coming forward with offers of active support in that way. The Federal and Provincial Governments might fairly be called upon to aid, and the leading cities of the Dominion (following the precedent of similar occasions in other countries) might subscribe to the capital stock necessary to put such an undertaking on a sound footing.

As it seems advisable to have the opinion of as many influential men as possible on the desirability and practicability of this scheme of a World's Fair, correspondence can be had on the subject as early as possible with Mr. S. C. Stevenson, 76 St. Gabriel street, Montreal, P.Q. There is no time to be lost; for an enterprise of such magnitude requires careful preparation to ensure success.

LITERARY NOTES.

Nicholas Flood Davin, M.P., finds time, outside of his *Regina Leader*, to send some breezy papers to "Eastern Canada."

The Almafilian is the euphonious name of a pretty little paper published by and for the young ladies of Alma College, St. Thomas, Ont.

Mr. William McLennan, author of "Songs of Old Canada," has gone, with his family, for a month, to Banff, for respite and physical recuperation.

There is question of a new Historical Society for the Simcoes. There is no more historic ground in Canada—the dark and bloody home of the Hurons.

Le Canada Français, a learned and literary quarterly, published by Laval University, has closed its first year, and is beginning the second under the best auspices.

M. Pamphile Lemay, the translator of "Evangeline," and who had gone to France for a holiday, was suddenly summoned to Quebec by a family bereavement.

We shall have the pleasure, in our next issue, of reviewing "The Masque of Minstrels," by Arthur J. Lockhart. Here is another Nova Scotian who has made his mark.

St. Johns, on the Richelieu, is another of the oldest points in Canadian history—one of the four legendary forts, built before the De Courcelles expedition against the Iroquois. It is just the place for an historical society.

It is not generally known, and it is a curious thing, that the *News* and *Telegram* of Toronto are not sent from their respective offices to anybody in the Province of Quebec. The reason is to avoid the law's difficulties, as shown in the Sheppard case.

In a note to the editor, Professor C. G. D. Roberts, of King's College, N.S., exclaims of Prof. George Murray's "Incidents in Cupid's Life," published in these columns of the 10th November: "What a charming piece that of Mr. Murray's in your last."