

an influence which becomes more potent year by year, and year by year we are becoming more American; inevitably our ideal of national life is becoming identified with and lost in that of our brothers to the south. One-third of our population is French, speaking their own language, governed by their own code of laws, sending their children to schools which teach them a standard of civilization different from that which shall be the standard of the civilization of Canada in the future. We are a small commonwealth, scattered across an immense country, and we are not able readily to digest the great quantities of new material, Doukhobors, Italians, Hindoos, Chinese, etc., which enter our country every year. Though America in the first instance was a fusion of diverse but not divergent elements, yet the stream of immigration to the United States was of little consequence until after the Civil War, and by that time, America had come to a national strength, was clearly enough conscious of its nationhood to be able to assimilate even the vast numbers of aliens who have since sought freedom within its borders. Whatever may be the character of the resultant of the assimilative forces now at work, however that resultant may be tintured with American or other exterior influence, until there is a resultant, a fusion of strong, numerous and various elements into one solidarity of national life, Canada will not have a literature. But in the formation of the distinctive character of this solidarity, is the giving of the peculiar tone which shall distinguish it as Canadian, such magazines as those under discussion can wield a mighty influence.

What should be the character and purpose of such a magazine? We believe that a national magazine is of the last importance in the development and maintenance of national culture. But the history of Canadian efforts in this direction makes it only too evident that the mission of such a magazine receives but slight attention and no encouragement from the majority of the people, who, from motives of public-spirit alone, might be expected to take an interest in it. Most of the magazine literature which Canadians read is that produced in other countries. Much of it is good, worthy of attention, some of it is of the first rank, but it does not meet the national needs. A national magazine which is characterized by breadth of view and comprehensiveness of treatment of matters of national import can reach a class whose present culture is shaped by the newspaper, (hurriedly written, hurriedly read, and too cursory in its treatment of things), can reach a class which cannot have a university training, can reach a class which is too busy to read books. It should not only afford a medium for the expression of the higher thought and life of the people, and place that expression before the best class of readers—that is, before those upon whom depends the shaping of the intellectual, moral, artistic and industrial future of the nation, but it should also, by the very virtue of that expression, become a stimulus to the attainment of a higher plane of life and culture. It should preserve the national sense of individuality, of essential homogeneousness: so that that individuality shall not be dissolved into a characterless, nebulous cosmopolitanism. We do not mean that due attention should not be given to the discussion of