

## FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE.

One of the most hopeful features of the new Canadianism is that it is not a mere vapid sentiment, but that it is based on intelligence and knowledge. Great efforts have been made by the Canadian people to educate the young. The school and college have been important factors in the life of every Canadian province. Time does not permit us to survey in this respect all the provinces, but we may take Manitoba as an illustration. The sparse population, the continuance for several years of bad seasons and the limited and unjust arrangements as to revenue under which the province lies, might have afforded our public men an excuse for neglecting education. But our people are convinced that to be free a people must be intelligent. The Canadian national spirit declares the unity of the people to be essential. Mennonites, Icelanders, Hungarians, Jews and others will not be Canadians unless they are educated into the spirit of our land. Out of this grew our great public school movement of 1891. Shallow critics say it was a political move, that it was an expedient, that it was not wise. But that movement was inevitable. From time to time it had risen for the previous twenty years. It simply culminated in 1891.

A visit to the splendid public schools of Winnipeg to-day with their beautiful buildings is an object lesson in Canadian patriotism. Representatives of thirteen different tongues may there be seen side by side. All, while loving their own national traditions, speak one tongue. Hundreds of Icelandic children will address you in as pure a tongue as any Canadian can use. In all parts of the province the same spectacle is seen. What an inestimable blessing it is to have all the children taught to breathe the same national spirit! The success achieved has been at the expense of much thought, and anxiety and struggle, but this keynote of a higher Canadian life has been sounded for the future millions of our wide prairie.

The rising Canadian culture is an evidence of this true spirit. The desire for education, the increased production of a Canadian literature, the improvement seen in the demand for books of all kinds, the strengthening of Canadian publishing houses, the call for post graduate courses, the advantage taken of facilities for foreign travel, the elevation of taste seen in the people beautifying their homes, and the sense that our land is leaving behind the crudeness of pioneer life, are all proofs of a spirit leading to a higher national life.

## WITH SOBRIETY AND RELIGION.

Nor, while we may find defects in our Canadian life so far as what we may call our spiritual environment is concerned, have we other than a cheering outlook. One danger of northern nations has been the tendency to strong drink. Sometimes the brightest hopes of individual or community have been dashed by what Shakespeare speaks of as, "this heavy-headed revel east and west." The brightest intellects and the most patriotic hearts have been trailed in the dust by love of drink and its almost inevitable offspring unchastity.

Comparen with many other nations Canadians may well be thankful for the increasing interest in the condition of public morals. The spectacle of our Dominion voting in September last, and saying, by a considerable majority that in our opinion there should be the total suppression of the liquor traffic, indicates an opinion very hopeful for young Canada. The campaign of education on this subject, the decided majority in many parts of the country, the fact that every county in our province, notably the city of Winnipeg, gave an unmistakable opinion—all these things speak of good things for Canada in the future.

It will no doubt be suggested that French Canada decidedly opposed the position taken by other parts of the country. This is certainly to be regretted, but to men of calm judgment the case is not discouraging. Those who are familiar with Quebec know that outside of the cities of Montreal and Quebec there is little intemperance in fact whole counties are virtually prohibitory districts already. The local option idea has there taken hold of the people, so that while in the particular form of the plebiscite vote there may seem a difference, yet there is a virtual unity in the opinion as to strong drink and its use prevailing from ocean to ocean.

We should rejoice that Canada is a land of faith, and not of religious unbelief. It were a hopeless thing indeed if with our rising tide of Canadian hopes and patriotic spirit the fires of religious life were dying out. Nations to be strong and permanent must be religious. See poor, atheistic, irreligious, heart-broken France, whence this very day the news has come that the motto "God protects France" is to be struck from her coins. In the very Paris where in the days of revolution God was dethroned and a paragon of vice was worshipped, any visitor may hear to-day that the marriage relation is laughed at—and that means inevitable destruction to any people. Look at superstitious, ignorant Spain to-day, with nearly