

difference in South Africa has been a question of language and not one of religious leanings as well, as it has been in Canada. Hence the problem will be easier of solution. Yet the administration of the education department that is to be will not be without its many difficulties, and it is to be hoped that with a strong and progressive South African confederacy established the lessons of our own country will not be overlooked when the educational interests are being cared for, and that the new principality will have neither a language question nor a school question to trouble it for long. The remedy should be provided for at the very beginning of things.

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THE article by Mr. Robert Barr, which appeared in the November issue of the *Canadian Magazine*, has caused not a little sensation among Canadian publishers and authors. Some of our journals, with the illogical policy ever before their eyes that the truth should only be spoken when nobody is to be hurt thereby, have taken exception to the appearance of the article as a slur upon Canadian intellectuality. But if it be a slur it is for Canada and Canadians to remove the slur by avoiding even the appearance of evil in their coldness towards their literary men and their productions. And he is surely but a blind Canadian who does not know where to locate the many evidences that Canada continues to give the cold shoulder to the literary ventures of its own sons and daughters. Indeed, in many cases the Canadian author who thinks to find an outlet for his work through a Canadian publishing house finds himself double handed, for the people turn their backs upon his work simply because it is the work of one of their own,

and the booksellers will have nothing to do with the sale of what issues from a house against which they have that foul plague of commercial enterprises, trade jealousy. It is a sad, sad business for the young Canadian author, the product of our many educational appliances, our schools, colleges and universities. The "Song of the Shirt" gives no sadder picture, and Robert Barr deserves our thanks and not condemnation for having laid bare the depressing state of affairs in which our authors find themselves. The story is going the rounds that one of our rising poets lately sent material to a Canada publisher for a volume, and was all but beside himself with delight when he learned that he would not have to advance money to the firm to have it issued. Another author, who had to publish at his own expense, placed the imprint of one of our prominent booksellers upon his volumes, and to his surprise the other booksellers refused point blank to have anything to do with the sales of the work. The other day the writer of this thought to test the matter, after reading Mr. Barr's article, and taking a walk through the city found 'he booksellers' windows crammed with the American magazines, but not a single copy of the *Canadian Magazine*, a periodical which should be in every family, was to be seen. But the evidences of neglect are all around us, and Robert Barr's diatribe strikes us with the force of the truth itself.

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THE rush after the new often leads to the oversight of the excellencies of the old, and Miss Peebles, of the McGill Normal school, Montreal, points this out in a letter which she lately sent to one of the Montreal papers. "Oh, could we only have this system or this sub-