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THE
Anglo-American Magazine.

FEBRUARY, 1900.

LITERATURE AND ART IN CANADA.

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THE five and a quarter millions of people who own Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific, are displaying a mental activity commensurate with the expansion of territory and accumulation of wealth. If it were possible within the compass of this paper to give a complete list of the many histories, poems, essays and pamphlets that have appeared from the Canadian press during the thirty years that the Dominion has been in existence, the number would astonish those persons who have not followed its intellectual progress. In fact, all the scientific, historical, and political contributions of three decades, whether good, bad, or indifferent in character, make up quite a pretentious library, which shows the growth of what may be called Canadian literature, since it deals chiefly with subjects essentially of Canadian interest. The attention that is now particularly devoted to the study and writing of history and the collection of historical documents, relating to the Dominion proves clearly the national or thoroughly Canadian spirit that is already animating the educated and cultured class of its people.

Previous to the confederation of 1867 the only histories of undoubted merit were those of the French Canadians Garneau and Ferland. These were distinguished for clearness of style, industry and research, and scholarly management of the subject. Of the many others published since 1867, which take up so much space on my shelves, only two require special mention. One of these is a history of the days of Montcalm and Levis—the two most distinguished figures