

ARGUMENT.

and he will find a greater portion of the news is foreign, and all the clippings are American. Let him take up any magazine published in this country, and if he can find a Canadian article therein, it got in by a fluke, forbecause there was no concurrent balderdash by Ian Maclaren or DuMaurier to apostrophise. Let him look for a Canadian story by a Canadian writer, and see how many he can find.

One of the best sonnets ever written in the English language, and one of the best novels, are both by Canadians. The sonnet cannot escape immortality, but if the novel had been written by a certain pawky Scotchman in half-broken English and worse grammar, it would have turned the heads of gods and men like unto Trilby.

Now I do not want to be misunderstood here. These allusions to present literary conditions are true, and are in striking contrast to the conditions existing in either America or England. I am not fool enough to think I can produce a Canadian Magazine which will drive every other out of Canada, but I am going to try and give to the public a Magazine ENTIRELY CANADIAN, which I hope and believe will be appreciated and encouraged as it deserves. The course I have marked out for OUR MONTHLY is a new one, it is outside the track of literary navigation, and will bump against no man's stonehooker. In a letter to Professor Goldwin Smith, I outlined my plans and requested his opinion thereon. He was good enough to reply as follows:—

THE GRANGE, TORONTO,

January 17th, 1896.

DEAR SIR,

You and your Company will render a service to this country if you can succeed in setting on foot a magazine which will reward native talent, and which will be really literary, keeping clear of political party and sectionalism of any kind. You are quite at liberty to cite my opinion to that effect.

To take part in your enterprise is beyond my powers. I labored long in successive undertakings, the object of which was to make Toronto a literary centre and afford Canadian pens remunerative employment at home. But the few days which remain to me are dedicated to other work.

Yours faithfully,

GEO. MOFFAT,

Editor "Our Monthly,"

Toronto.

GOLDWIN SMITH.