

self-assertion." No doubt, in the course of time, the man of lofty patriotism and true intellectual power will obtain his proper position in the American republic. Civilization is ever progressive, and ignorance, even in a country of pure democracy and universal suffrage, must recede before the irresistible forces of intellect and knowledge.

In the Provinces constituting the Dominion of Canada, we have been all leading so active a life that few individuals have had time to devote to the pursuit of literature. The people of these new countries have had a great work to do, and the ability and energy they have brought to its accomplishment are attested by the present wealth and prosperity of this section of the British Empire. The development of their superabundant resources still demands their best energies; but it should not be forgotten that if they are ever to attain national greatness, it must be by improving their intellectual as well as material condition.

When all classes have had such active work to do, it is not strange that the number of public men who have been distinguished for their literary ability should be very few. It is true, journalists* have exercised, and are now exercising, a very considerable influence in the administration of public affairs; and they must continue to do so under our system of free government. The literary class in the Provinces, apart from journalism, has hitherto been extremely insignificant—indeed it can be hardly said to have had an existence. Judge Haliburton, "Sam Slick," was one of the few men who pursued purely literary studies in connection with politics and law. Mr. McGee was undoubtedly the most prominent example of the statesman and man of letters combined in one individual. His public addresses always exhibited that copious illustration and depth of thought which proved the high standard of his intellectual attainments, and the extremely wide range of his reading. During his career in Canada, this able writer and orator did a great deal, by means of lectures before literary societies, to encourage literature, and set an example to the other public men of the Dominion which they might well imitate. With the fine oratorical powers so many of them possess, all of us must feel that they could assist materially in developing intellectual tastes in these new countries. Our people naturally look to our public men as the leaders in all matters of public importance; and certainly they could not employ their talents more profitably than in stimulating a love for letters.

Mr. Howe is another colonial statesman who possesses a well-cultivated intellect, and invests every subject that he handles with illustrations drawn from a persevering course of study. Like Mr. McGee, Mr. Howe has written several poems which, although few in number, and only found floating through the columns of the colonial press, possess a rhythmical flow and purity of style that cannot fail to please.

* Among the prominent public men of the Dominion who have been, or are still associated with the public press, may be mentioned: Hon. George Brown, of the *Toronto Globe*; Hon. W. McDougall, C. B., Minister of Public Works; Hon. J. Cauchon, President of the Senate; Hon. J. Howe, President of the Privy Council; Hon. C. Tupper, C. B., M. P.; Hon. J. McCully, Senator; Hon. W. A. Hannand, M. L. C., Premier of Nova Scotia; B. Chamberlin, M. P., of the *Montreal Gazette*; E. M. Macdonald, M. P., of the *Halifax Citizen*, &c.