

ONE ADVANTAGE OF GROWING UP IN CANADA.

Will the reader please attend to the wording of my theme: so doing he will perceive that this paper is to contain nothing with respect to Canada as a country in which to spend one's life. It is only the early formative period of life which is here under consideration, and my object is to point out a certain advantage which Canada affords as regards this period. He will also perceive that I am not to treat of the advantages in general which Canadian youth enjoy, but of only one advantage which is theirs. Their advantages are many, doubtless both more in number and richer in kind than they appreciate. If out of them all I can emphasize one, and in any measure make its worth appear, my object will be achieved.

Further, the wording of my theme suggests a discrimination between Canada and other countries in this special regard, and a discrimination in favor of Canada; and it is impossible not to think especially of the United States in this connection. Be it so. I write especially for Canadian readers: but should this article fall under the eye of an American—if he be an intelligent, broad-minded American—he will confess the truth of what I say, and will acknowledge that this of which I speak ought to mean something to young Canadians.

One thing more as to my subject. When I speak of Canada I have in mind the English-speaking portions of the Dominion. To the French population of the Province of Quebec my point does not apply.

What then is this peculiar advantage which, while they are growing up, while they are being formed and educated in the home, the church, the school, Canadians enjoy? *It is that they are inheritors of the British traditions.* I use the word *traditions* in a wide sense as it will presently appear.

Everywhere in education one of the largest elements is that which is supplied by the history, the characters, the thoughts and deeds of the past. We seek to know not alone the natural sciences, not alone human languages and philosophic systems: but also what men and nations have been and have done. We seek to know how it has come to pass that life and society and institutions are just what they are.

I need scarcely remark that this element in education is the