

tried to set the remains of her household in order.

Now all is silent in the Hermitage. The night is clear; the air is soft. Surely the spring is already under this snow which is beginning to melt. The forest will not be late in budding, and I expect soon to see the grass blades springing above the dead leaves.

From the great tranquil fields below rises an incense like the smoke of an inhabited village; and if anything can offer consolation for the war it is this repose of man and nature, this universal calm of a bruised land repairing its strength in slumber, forgetting the lost crop to prepare the harvest of the to be.

## GABLE ENDS.

### PIONEER LITERARY ENDEAVORS IN WESTERN CANADA.

DURING the Toronto Industrial Exhibition, there has been displayed, now, for several years in succession, within the building known as the Pioneers' lodge, a collection of printed matter of a rather unique character, calculated to throw light on what we may term the incipient literatureism of Western Canada. In addition to the early views, maps, plans, portraits and soforth adorning the interior of the lodge, a group of books has been set out in a separate compartment and distinguished by the homely title of the *Log Shanty Book Shelf*. In each successive year the group has been a different one, but on each occasion the books have consisted of promiscuous gatherings likely only to be considered of importance during a primitive era in the history of a new country. In each group, however, additions, similar in character, have been made from time to time subsequently. A pamphlet catalogue of each shelf was prepared, and at the head of each list was a brief explanatory preface containing many particulars of local biography and history which will be likely to interest future enquirers. The subjects of the catalogues, in general terms, were the following, respectively :

Number 1, for 1887. Pioneer School Books. Aids to Self Culture and General Knowledge.

Number 2, for 1888. The Collection of a not Forgetful Pioneer Emigrant from Devonshire. Tracts, Pamphlets, Guide Books, Legends, Dialects, Local Histories and Maps relating to the West of England were eagerly secured and carefully garnered by the collector.

Number 3, for 1889. Some Pioneer Bibles.

Number 4, for 1890. Specimens of Pioneer Typography.

Number 5, for 1891. Relics of a Pioneer Anti-Obscurantist. (Erasmus o f Rotterdam.)

This department of the Book-Shelf originated in the use of the Colloquies of Erasmus as a class book at school. The young scholar thus became an admirer of Erasmean ideas and a collector of Erasmean books. Rejoicing in the check given by Erasmus to the prevalence of Dark Age doctrine in the 16th century he aimed to be within his little sphere an anti-obscurantist himself. Number 6, for 1892. Pioneer Shakespeare Culture in Canada. (An early collection.) Number 7, for 1893. Books of a Sententious Character, Proverbs, etc. (A pioneer gathering.)

The preliminary observations explanatory of the last mentioned catalogue are the following, and these may serve to exemplify the kind of information prefixed to each of the seven groups just described.

"In the great dearth of general literature in these parts in the old pioneer days, any books or pamphlets which furnished forth a supply, however scanty, of proverbs, pithy sayings, aphorisms and similitudes, were very acceptable to any one having the least inclination for reading and study. Such expressions seemed always to contain so much in so small a compass. The local almanac generally supplied a few proverbs, adopting occasionally the style and even the language of Franklin's 'Poor Richard'; sometimes the local newspaper furnished a few, even when its columns in other respects were very scantily supplied. These were all conned over with gratitude, in the absence of other matter for consideration. With homely primitive folk, a small stock of proverbs is found to be very useful in many emergencies of the head, heart and hands. In short, the compact set of sayings thus stored up might be compared to the old-fashioned pocket-knife which young lads aforetime were so proud to possess, containing in its handle, besides several blades, a great variety of little imple-