

the expansion of Canadian literature and the expression of higher Canadian thought in a strictly national sense was *The Canadian Magazine*. We do not think Canadian literature, Canadian readers, or Canada itself, has lost by our entrance on the field—until then the undisputed territory of *The Canadian Magazine*.

A glance at the long list of those who have contributed to our three volumes, will demonstrate that it will be well-nigh impossible to procure a more nationally representative aggregation of writers and artists. The work of these has gone forth among the people of Canada and among the people of other lands bearing, with it its own convincing tale of Canada's literary productiveness. The frequent references to, and quotations from MASSEY'S in the leading reviews and other journals in the States, in England, and wherever the English language is spoken, testify the recognition that we have been able to secure for Canadian literature and for Canadian art in other lands. We believe that this can be done still more successfully by a combination of our resources, of our facilities and experience, with those of the only other Magazine that has been similarly accepted at home and abroad as representative of the national literary life of Canada; and in announcing that in future *The Canadian and Massey's Magazines* will appear as one publication, we do so with the fullest assurance that the step that has been taken will enhance the interest of all concerned. As we have already suggested, the field in a new and sparsely populated and territorially extensive country like Canada is necessarily a limited one. We claim, and we think our claim will be admitted by all, that *The Canadian and Massey's Magazines* have demonstrated that it is possible to produce a magazine, the work of Canadian *littérateurs* and artists that will compare favorably with the magazines of any other country. If this has been done while the two journals were entirely independent, how much more can be accomplished when the field is left entirely to one—that one comprising all that is best in the two. Our subscribers may feel some regret at losing in part an

old friend, but that they will gain by receiving the double magazine at the same price that they had paid for one, cannot be questioned, and we look forward for an even increased impetus to the growth in Canadian literature from the combination of the resources of *The Canadian and Massey's Magazines*.

THE LETTER OR THE SPIRIT. Being beyond the pale of the strictly doctrinal circle, we regard the recent arraignment of Dr. Watson (Ian Maclaren) on a charge of heresy as one of those works of supererogation which do more to unsettle the faith of man than all the onslaughts of avowed atheism. Mere doctrine, or finer distinction of doctrine, is not the need of the day. For nearly a quarter of a century "higher criticism," armed with archæological, geological, and other scientific *data*, has been pricking here and poking there until it is doubtful if, so far as the Old Testament is concerned, there is a single evangelical Protestant sect, a majority of whose cultured members are at one on doctrine. As long as it could, "higher criticism" hid its head within the four walls of theological seminaries and other haunts of professorism. The most publicity it allowed itself was an occasional encyclopedic treatise, which, in the nature of things, reached only the few. Earnest theological professors and devout divines were afraid to give to their flocks "the truths" they had learned in the privacy of the study. Some, in their sermons, ventured a few steps beyond the limits of old-time orthodoxy; and the keen, vigilant heresy hunter, the being to whom doctrine is the foundation—not the roof—of religion, was after them at once. The cat was out of the bag. The day of full publicity had arrived. Sensational heresy trials on both sides of the Atlantic, notably those of Professors Robertson-Smith and Briggs in Scotland and the States respectively, made the masses aware that the very authenticity of portions of the Bible was being questioned among those who were the most renowned champions of the Bible.

Agnosticism crowed loudly, of course, and weak men wavered, but what checked the former and strengthened the latter