

will have the first real test of the merits of republicanism. Before we can be certain that republicanism is a better form of government than monarchy, we must see it rise superior to some real difficulties."

OUR NATIONAL LITERATURE.

As there are a few Canadians who run counter to the institutions and material resources of the country, there are a few others also who not only decry the literary work that has been done in the past, but insist that no field for literature is possible in the Dominion. We have received quite a paper on this subject, with the title given to the present article, which we should have returned to the author, without comment, only that it was submitted to us as editor of the *DOMINION ILLUSTRATED*, and for the purpose of publication. We notice it, furthermore, as the writer is a man of ability, whose verses have more than once graced our columns, and whose name often appears in the Toronto journals.

The paper is quite lengthy, and cast in a scornful vein. It lays down three grievances—the discouragement of a would-be author; the competition of English and American writers, and the lack of Canadian appreciation and patronage, but the real burden of the whole article is that literature does not pay in Canada, and that publishers and booksellers are in league against those who want to make a livelihood by writing.

Now, there is where the mistake is made, and where an injustice is done to Canada by invidious comparison with other countries. It is true that, in a young country like Canada, no man can make his living, pure and simple, by devoting himself exclusively to letters. But it is the same thing, in the vast majority of cases, in the United States and England, and, indeed, in all cultivated countries, like France and Germany. In the United States, with very few exceptions, there are none who live by their writings alone. A half dozen that had independent means, such as Helen Hunt and Mrs. Burnett, were able to publish their own books, even if they had not made money by their works of genius. But run through the long range of authors, and it will be found that they almost all had, and have, subsidiary means of existence. Longfellow was rich of himself, but he had a life-long professorship, too. So had Lowell. Holmes had a large profession and a professorship. Hawthorne, the greatest genius of them all, had to live on government official money during his whole life. George William Curtis, and the later authors—such as Aldrich, Stoddart, Ripley, Winter, Howells, Warner, and a dozen more, are all in receipt of large salaries for the hack work of editorial departments in newspapers and magazines.

There has been the same experience in England. The best men in its literature were employed in public offices, from the days of Charles Lamb down to those of Matthew Arnold, taking in a host of names, such as those of Hazlitt, Anthony Trollope, and Edmund Yates. George Augustus Sala, a man of extraordinary parts, will leave no work behind him that is likely to live, because retained for routine toil, of the most ephemeral kind, in the periodical press. The later generation of minor writers, such as Austin Dobson, Edmund Gosse, Andrew Lang, are all dependent on this treadmill work. Literature, pure and simple, does not pay them, and though their other toil is useful, it is hackneyed, takes up all their

time, and does not enter into the domain of real and lasting literature.

In a narrower range, the state of things is the same in Canada. When a man has a clever pen, and can make the stores of a widely-read and scholarly mind interesting to the average readers, who are always eager for information and entertainment, he has a chance of being engaged on the press, where the salaries are generally adequate to his easy livelihood. The result is that we have proportionately as many able writers as there are in the United States and England, and while the field of native reading has, up till lately, been that of a young and struggling people, the change within the past fifteen years—or since the era of Confederation, indeed—has been most marked.

Then, again, as in Montreal, for instance, we could name a dozen young men devoted to letters, in which they have achieved a name, and who either have private means, or make a living out of their professions, as lawyers, notaries and medical practitioners. In Ottawa there are several engaged in the Civil Service, and not a few are professors in our seats of learning.

This subject might be pursued much further, but enough has been said to show that there is such a living, tangible thing as Canadian literature; that the prospects of a yearly improvement, going abreast with the material progress of the country, are clearly to be seen; and that, if a clever and successful writer wants to put forth a book, he ought to have pride and trust enough to do it, at least partially, out of his own pocket, with the chances all in his favour that he shall reap a measure of fame and profit therefrom.

THE RESOURCES OF CANADA.

While some of our own people are so far blinded as to run down their country, and work at the ruin of its institutions, it is a special compensation to find broad-minded and disinterested Americans laying the facts about Canada in their true light, and publishing them to the world with honourable truthfulness. At a late meeting of the Institute of Albany, New York, Professor Ralph W. Thomas read a paper, from which we have nothing else to do but to quote, the matter being altogether statistical and authentic.

The question asked is: "What is Canada?" Geographical Canada has an area of 3,360,000 square miles, of which the Basin of the Hudson's Bay alone is 2,000,000 square miles. Canada is forty times as large as England, Scotland and Wales. It is equal to three British Indias, and fifteen times as large as the German Empire. The excess of its area over that of the United States is greater than that of the whole area included in the thirteen colonies joining in the Declaration of Independence. A country of magnificent areas; unmeasured arable plain and prairie; of mountains rich in minerals; of lacustrine systems dwarfing those of the United States; of majestic rivers, wholly within her own borders, measured on the Missouri-Mississippi scale. This is Canada.

Industrial Canada is great in agriculture and minerals. Ontario raises the finest barley in the world and some of the finest draught horses. The vast Northwest includes 466,000 square miles of the wheat field of the world. From its situation it has two hours more of daylight than other wheat bearing regions on this continent. This means two hours more of forcing power every day. Droughts are never feared. Manitoba

claims 75,000,000 acres of wheat fields. The Canadian wheat crop for the first ten months of 1888 was valued at \$5,000,000. The Northwest regions are capable of supporting a population of many millions, and immigrants are already pouring in. Alberta is the ranch of Canada. Its climate is so mild, on account of the warm currents on the Pacific, that cattle and horses roam over the pastures the year round, and are found in spring to be in good condition for market. The Canadians exported \$10,000,000 worth of cattle during the first ten months of 1887. All these advantages are to be reinforced by transportation. The Canada Pacific Railroad is a fact, and the Hudson's Bay route is promised, by which Winnipeg is brought 783 miles nearer Liverpool than by way of Montreal, and 1,052 miles nearer than by Chicago. By this route Liverpool would be brought 2,136 miles nearer to China and Japan than *via* New York and San Francisco. If this route succeeds, Canada will hold the key to the markets of the world. Coal exists throughout Canada in abundance, the entire coal area covering 97,000 square miles.

The copper deposits are pronounced by Mr. Erastus Wiman to be almost beyond human belief. The Calumet and Hecla vein is twelve feet thick; the Canadian vein is 1,000 feet thick. The Geological Survey has located 557 deposits in the Eastern Townships alone. Gold and silver exist in great plenty, chiefly in Nova Scotia and British Columbia. In the latter province \$50,000,000 have been taken from the ground by unimproved methods, and this seems to point to vast deposits in the mountains.

In Beaver mine, at Port Arthur, discovered in March last, there is in sight, by actual measurement, \$750,000 worth of silver. Like bonanzas have been reported in British Columbia. Such exposures are unprecedented. Iron is found in unlimited quantities and of the best grade. Near Ottawa there is a hill of iron estimated to contain 100,000,000 tons. The railroad up the valley of the Trent runs through a continuous iron belt for 150 miles. Mr. Wiman is authority for the statement that at New Glasgow, in Nova Scotia, within a radius of six miles, there are found hundreds of tons of iron ore, of the best quality, side by side with limestone, chemically pure, coke in seams 30 feet thick, all directly on the line of the Intercolonial Railway and within six miles of the Atlantic ocean. This ore could be put on the wharf in Boston for \$1.50 per ton, which, to-day, costs from \$5 to \$6 per ton. The Ontario Government has recently sold 150,000 acres of land for \$2 an acre, covering an iron belt seventy-five miles across.

Commercial Canada has not as yet acquired that prominence which might be expected when the resources of the country are considered. Yet, in her merchant marine, Canada ranks fourth among the nations of the earth. Commerce is now being fostered by the Government, and in 1881 the American trade with Canada amounted to \$89,000,000. These facts partly answer the question "What is Canada?" and we hold with the Professor that they vindicate the Canadian's claim for the greatness of his country's destiny.

The Pacific coast is already buying 300,000,000 tons of Canadian coal every year, in spite of the duty. American manufacturers are compelled to go to Malta and Spain for iron, when it exists within a few hours' ride of their own borders.