

gestion which has rapidly developed into a wide-spread institution. Among all the older states of the Union the Home Comers' Festival has been adopted and enthusiastically celebrated, and now we are making a trial of it in Canada, whither all good ideas are bound to come before they are very old.

It is a matter for the deepest regret that the man who, perhaps more than any other, had the project upon his heart should not have lived to see its fulfilment. In the untimely passing away of Mr. Walter H. Massey, the City of Toronto lost a citizen whose value may not be expressed in formal words. Possessed of great wealth, he had in an unusual manner that pure public spirit which made him ever concerned with regard to the higher interests of the community, and he gave himself and his wealth with splendid unselfishness to the promotion of these interests. The idea of a Home Comers' Festival appealed to him strongly, and, looking at things in the large way that was his wont, he contemplated nothing less than a national reunion, a home-coming of Canadians without reference to the immediate locality to which their early days belonged.

Upon consideration, however, it was felt that there were difficulties in the way of realizing such a conception that could hardly be overcome, and so, although Mr. Massey could no longer lend the inspiration of his presence, and the aid of his counsel, the Toronto Board of Trade determined to carry out the scheme to completion, and hence the Festival, which will signalize and make memorable the first week of the month of July, 1903.

The purpose of this celebration may be easily stated. The sons of Toronto have not been home-keeping youths. They have gone abroad in quest of fame and fortune, and have won no small share of both. The majority of these out-goers have settled in the United States, within comparatively easy reach of this city. They will be taking a summer holiday of some kind. Why should they not come here, and renew and revive the old associations?

Toronto folks are generally credited with being in no special need of repeating the old Scotchman's prayer, "Oh Lord, gie us a gude conceit of oorsels!" Yet it must be

admitted, without cavil, that they have ample excuse for entertaining a good conceit of their city, which may certainly be pronounced as possessing summer attractions that are unsurpassed upon this continent.

Superbly situated upon the shore of a magnificent lake, affording unlimited facilities for every kind of water pleasure and sport, embowered in foliage, and gay with flowers and verdure, blessed with a delightful climate, adorned with the most comfortable of homes, rich in beautiful and spacious parks, surrounded by enchanting scenery, lying in easy proximity to practically boundless fishing and hunting territory, and having for its residents, it goes without saying, a people whose intellectual, social, or moral status can stand comparison with that of any other city on the globe, Toronto has done well to offer a hearty welcome to her home-coming sons.

Nor need it be assumed that the spirit in which this is being done is purely a sentimental one, for there is a practical side to it which must not be left out of account. Our country is just now enjoying wonderful prosperity and

"Looking into the future, far as human eye can see,"

there seems substantial prospect of the good times continuing for many years yet. As a natural consequence of this pleasing state of things, there has been a significant and gratifying improvement in material conditions.

Toronto has grown during the past few years at a rate, and in a manner not paralleled by any previous period in her history. This fact the "Old Guard," who have stayed by their native city, and made her what she has become, are desirous to impress upon those who have gone afield. They want them to realize how fine are the capital's present circumstances, and how bright the promise of the future, and they are not without hope that, as the result of this visit, a goodly number of her guests may be influenced to repatriate themselves, and settle down again in their Mother Land with the conviction that after all there is no place like home.

The work of preparation has been conducted under the direction of the following