

Gilbert Parker appeared. He has had many followers, fully a dozen of which are creditable writers, though none have yet surpassed him in either of his departments of the romance or short story. The realistic school, besides the ordinary society novel, has produced a couple of really good books, notably, "The Forest of Bourg-Marie," by Mrs. Harrison, "Black Rock" and "Sky Pilot," by the Canadian Ian Maclaren, Ralph Connor (Rev. C. W. Gordon). But Haliburton's Sam Slick yet remains unsurpassed in this branch of fiction. In law and constitutional history, we have Todd and Bourinot, while in science the names of the two Dawsons, father and son, call to mind a coterie of savants, French and English. In the essay French Canada is doing very good work as may be seen by glancing over the pages of the "Revue Canadienne." Here we may remark that we have not considered as Canadian authors men who came to Canada only in their prime of life. This accounts for our omitting the names of such men as Abbé Taillon, the historian, Charles Heavyside, the poet, Dr. Hunt, the scientist, D'Arcy McGee, Goldwin Smith and others, who have aided greatly in the development of our literature.

To examine the merits and demerits of our individual poets, novelists, historians, scientists and essayists, to set our French Canadian and our English Canadian authors before us, in friendly rivalry, to compare them with their contemporaries in France, United States and the British Empire, to study the lesser writers in all the branches of our literature, that we might be the better able to form an idea of its future greatness, we earnestly desire to do, but even if we could, we might not, as this is a brief sketch and not a lengthy pamphlet.

Some of the circumstances against which our literature has to contend must, however, in justice to it, be stated. Perhaps the greatest of these is the false hurried education which has become so popular on this side of the Atlantic. Few will take even the course of Arts, and hardly anyone will go in for specialization. The evil influence of this upon the literature of the country, especially in those branches which are not included among the "Belles Lettres," can readily be understood. Then again there is the great difficulty in getting true criticism. The literary puffing,