

This has been felt also in literature ; Canadian literarians have been compelled to seek publication in the journals and magazines in the country to the south of us. The cause has been the lack of encouragement at home, and the result, a tardy development of literary production. The literature of Canada is impeded and opposed at almost every point ; but we hope that the day will soon come when a national, unprejudiced, unsectarian journal will give "a local habitation and a name" to the uncertain, diffuse writing which we now term Canadian literature.

SLANG.—"There is nothing more curious than the vitality of a class of words never employed in good society, and never admitted into any dictionary. While we all claim theoretically that vocabularies, and even academies, are necessary for the preservation of a language, we yet find in practice that these base-born brats, these children of thieves and outcasts, have a vitality of their own," so says T. W. Higginson, reviewing an old book, "The Life and Adventures of Henry Tufts," in which is compiled a glossary of the cant, flash, or slang expressions of Boston crooks of nearly a century ago. A few may prove interesting to those who have had no knowledge of or experience with this light-fingered, light-worded "gentry." Blower means a woman ; clout, a handkerchief ; crab, a shoe ; crack, to break open ; to be dead up to, to know well ; do, to rob ; cove, a man ; gentleman, a crowbar ; jigger, a door ; longtag, a coat ; grub, victuals ; oliver, the moon ; pops, pistols ; napping his bib, crying ; horney, a sheriff ; qua, a jail ; rum-cove, a gentleman ; slangs, irons ; topt, hanged ; wibble, an auger ; yapster, a dog. Many of the above have not yet disappeared, while others will recall old scenes from Dickens. Some of our English words, upstarts, have lost the mark of their low breeding and are established in the higher circles, such as tie, bore, bother, kidnap, cab, puff, etc. We notice two others, mob, slang for *mobile*, a fickle crowd, and cop, shortened from C. O. P., chief of police. The latter were also called peelers from being the creatures of Sir Robt. Peel.