

THE WEEK.

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CANADIANS IN NEW YORK.

NEW YORK undoubtedly can justly lay paramount claim to being the most cosmopolitan city on the face of the earth. Into every trade, calling, and profession worked and practised in this great city, a foreign element has pushed its way and gained a foothold, and a patriot of any one particular race can point with pride to one or more of his countrymen who have nationally distinguished themselves in this metropolis, and to a certain degree, by gaining such distinction, have commended themselves to the recognition of the Government of their nativity.

The remarks I have made, speaking generically, are more particularly applicable to the Canadian colony, at present resident in New York. Within the last few years they have been unconsciously bringing themselves before the eyes of Americans as a *class*. Such prominence has been deservedly won. It was not gained by any claptrap devices which attract ephemeral attention, but by that display of energy, push, and dogged perseverance, characteristics apparently innate and national, which metropolitan life stimulates and inflames to a degree the happy possessors themselves can scarcely comprehend. There is something in the metropolitan atmosphere that fans the flame of latent ambition and spurs one on. At least it has this effect on the average Canadian emigrant, and it requires but a few weeks, nay, say days, to revolutionize his whole being and turn his thoughts in a new direction, as to what "may be" attained in the future. Where our young countrymen have taken up their permanent residence here imbued with that feeling of strong determination to succeed, I cannot look back and point at a dismal failure. As a general rule, the rewards of their labour are even more remunerative at the end of a year than their brightest plans allowed them to anticipate.

I am losing sight of individual successes, and speaking generally. Of course we cannot forget the fact that they have left their native country for the sole purpose of improving their condition in life. They are firm in this resolution to do better, and therein lies the secret, or at least part of it. Hard work, I might almost say slavery—for a short time—and constant attention and application are the open sesame.

In nine out of ten cases it is, as the old saying has it, "neck or nothing," and the latter alternative is unanimously voted unworthy of even passing consideration. The average Canadian commences the uphill struggle with many things decidedly in his favour. He brings with him those deeply ingrafted principles and ideas of economy, which in Canada he well learns, and his mode of living, as compared to the reckless extravagance of the average New Yorkers, is the essence of asceticism. He denies himself the thousand and one little expensive fancies that the native regards as essentially necessary to his living, and not being accustomed to them the loss is but little felt. His tastes, as I have said, are comparatively simple, and his wants few and easily supplied. It necessarily takes time to uproot these instinctive feelings of economy, and when the revolutionary period takes possession of him, he has attained that position which enables him to "do as the Romans do," without overstepping the limit, or going beyond his means.

All the professions are receiving their quota of Canadian patrons. The study of the law apparently holds out a tempting bait, notwithstanding the fact that a late decision in the Court of Appeals has finally determined the oft-evaded question of citizenship, which, although legally enacted some years ago, had, until the decision in the O'Neill case, remained practically in abeyance. The law is now most strictly enforced. There is no comity between the two countries, and a Canadian who has been "called" in Canada must first serve the necessary five years in this country, and pass the regular examinations before he can be admitted to practise as an American counsellor. The regular term of service of clerkship is three years for a non-graduate of any university, and two years for a graduate. This restriction on the foreigner seems a little harsh, but fortunately the law clerk's salary in New York is not regulated on the same scale of princely magnificence as in Toronto. His remuneration here, after a short period of probation, is sufficiently liberal to maintain him.

No such formidable obstruction to rapid advancement as this question of naturalization rises before the medical student. The initiative in this profession is taken by the passing of a *mild form* of preliminary examination, and, after attendance at some medical college for six months in each year for two years, and a short service under the tutelary care of a practising physician, the student is at liberty to attach the easily obtained "M.D." to his name.

Journalism, as a profession, has claimed a number of bright, clever Canadian writers as its own, whose worth, unfortunately, as of the majority who have chosen this calling, is little known or appreciated outside of their own sphere.

Some fifteen months ago, several of the more prominent Canadians in New York met and fully discussed the advisability of organizing a social institution that would be strictly Canadian in its constitution. There were hundreds and hundreds of resident Canadians in New York who knew little or nothing of each other, and who, in the busy whirl of a busy life, were fast losing interest in Canada and Canadian events. How to bring them together was the question. The result of the several conferences between these gentlemen, patriots to the core, was the "Canadian Club," an institution which, even in this short space of time, has taken such rapid strides of advancement that it has now fairly established its right to a prominent place amongst the leading social organizations of New York.

Quarters in Washington Place were deemed sufficiently pretentious to accommodate the then comparatively small number of members, but the membership roll kept gradually growing larger and larger until no other alternative presented itself than to move to larger and better accommodations. Three months ago the change was made to a more desirable building, and a more desirable location than the quarters at present occupied at 12 E. 29th St.,—the old St. Nicholas Club—could not well be found in New York. The membership roll now foots up to something like three hundred resident and non-resident members, and new ones are constantly being added. The constitution of the club limits the number of American members to one hundred, and about one-third of the space to be devoted to their names is already taken up.

The reading, writing, and billiard rooms are most comfortably fitted up, in fact, everything bears the imprint of excellent management and prosperity. Altogether it is an institution of which Canadians both here and at home may well feel proud. It is, indeed, a wonderful year's growth, and another evidence of what determination will do.

No two gentlemen have been, or are, more closely linked with the fortunes of the club than Messrs. Erastus Wiman and W. B. Ellison. The former by his beneficent aid and apt suggestions, and the latter by his indefatigable efforts and skilful management, have made the Canadian Club as it stands to-day, and if thorough appreciation of their unskilful efforts, by the members of the club, goes for aught, they are being repaid.

Canadians visiting New York are extended all the privileges of the club. They are metaphorically welcomed with outstretched arms, and we make bold to say that they will with little difficulty detect a faint aroma of the proverbial Canadian hospitality lingering around the building, which to many of us, comparative strangers in a strange land, serves as a perfect "haven of rest," our appreciation of the advantages of which can be but ill-expressed in words.

J. H. SINCLAIR.

New York.