

now. There are at this day in Canada men of genius and talent, who not only engage in scientific studies, but whose general acquirements would not dishonour any department in literature. There are also both public and private libraries which would do credit to older countries, and to a community more distinguished in the world for learning and knowledge. And, whatever may be the value or the character of the works which are periodically issued from the press of Canada, as well as those other works which incidentally find their way by the same means into the world, this Country can boast of as extensive a circulation of literary and political matter as any other Country of similar advantages, situated at the same distance from the great schools and other extensive marts of European science and literature.\* Our progress in these acquirements has indeed been marked by that procrastination which has in all ages of the world characterized the march of letters; but it is no unreasonable thing to suppose, that, once we have fairly started in a course of liberal and enlightened literary pursuits, we may one day be in a condition, if not to rival, at least to approximate the acquirements of those countries that have long preceded us in their approaches to the sources of human knowledge. Nor, in doing so, can we esteem it otherwise than as a privilege of no ordinary value to these Provinces, that they form so distinguished a branch of the British Empire, where, we may safely assert, a more ample field is to be found for ingrafting and rearing a scion of that venerable tree of art and science which has from old spread its fruits and its shelter over so great a portion of the world, than is to be met with in any other of our Colonies.

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\* There are 19 Newspapers published and circulated in the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. Six of these are published twice a week, and some of the remainder issue Supplements when any intelligence of importance arrives. Four of these papers are printed in Quebec, one of which is wholly in the French language, and another partly in French and partly in English. In the Government Official Gazette some translations into this language necessarily appear also. In Montreal, which only contains a population of 25,000 at the utmost, seven papers are issued weekly with Supplements, but one only of which is printed in French. In Brockville in Upper Canada, there is only one weekly paper. In Kingston, there are two; in York, two; in Niagara, one; in Queenston, one. The Township of Staustead in Lower Canada, furnishes another, which amounts to the number we first stated. How these papers are conducted may be matter of consideration in some of our future numbers. Previous to 1809 there were only four papers in both Provinces.

Besides the libraries of the two principal Catholic Seminaries of Quebec and Montreal, and those of the various religious institutions in the Province, there are in every Town in Canada a number of public and private libraries that would do credit to any Country. The library of Montreal which contains a very extensive collection of valuable books upon every subject connected with polite and useful literature, deserves to be particularly mentioned, on account of the liberality with which it is furnished with new publications, and the judicious manner in which it is regulated. The Quebec public library does not, we understand contain such a numerous list of books, but it is, upon the whole, most respectable. The libraries of Kingston and York in Upper Canada, also contain a most valuable collection of books. Besides these, circulating libraries are to be found in every town in the Province, originally established by some respectable bookseller, and supported, as they generally are in England, by "the reading public." We shall suppose all these libraries to contain ten thousand volumes at the lowest calculation!