

walks of life have absorbed the material, though, when wealth and leisure are attained, literature may recover its own. Could we have the system of fellowships and endowments for research which in connection with the Universities of the Old World furnish a certain stimulus to literary and scientific achievement, native interest in literature would doubtless increase, and public enthusiasm be more largely enlisted in the work of the schools.

But we need not write of our shortcomings with bitterness, still less with exaggeration. There is much that is encouraging, and a progress in intellectuality which is positive and substantial. In the broad average intelligence of our people there is much to do us credit; and there has been a marked gain in the taste for reading, and with it an increased reflective tendency and a creditable power of penetration. We have not to record great literary feats, but we have gained on the days of brochures and political pamphlets. Public interest in topics of discussion has perceptibly risen, and the range of thought is now wider and more acute. Insignificant matters, it is true, still largely occupy the public mind, and the newspapers continue to pander to frivolous tastes. But the constituency grows that demands a higher mental pabulum, and many of the journals are laudably meeting the want. For the appetite of the masses politics are still the food, but there is a growing disrelish of the more peddling kind, and a quickened interest in the higher matters of the State. The appreciation of statesmanlike qualities in those who serve the country is becoming more pronounced; and there is a flush of pride at the thought of those who ornament the bench. The cry for an educated ministry, and for greater pulpit power, is everywhere heard; and with the higher scholarship of the dominion his status is at last ascending. In the

review of the intellectual progress of the country these are matters that count for something, and we hold them to be a gratifying feature of Canadian development.

Another and a practical evidence of the growing culture of the community, and its advancement in letters, is to be found in the expansion of Canadian publishing industries, and the ready enterprise with which the native book-houses take up ambitious literary projects. A signal instance of this will occur to everyone in the spirited undertaking of the Art Publishing Company of Toronto, in preparing and launching, at enormous expense, their elaborate table-book "Picturesque Canada." This publication we have elsewhere spoken of as one that will mark a great artistic epoch in the intellectual progress of our people, which must have an immense influence upon the present and future of Canadian art and Canadian literature. At one stroke it has set Canada upon a lofty pinnacle of literary and artistic achievement, to whose brave heights she beckons other art enterprise, with equal strength of pinion, to soar and place an added chaplet on her head. With this magnificent example of the art of native book illustrating before them, anything is now possible of accomplishment to our publishers; and we are safe to look for a harvest of similar ventures, in other departments of labour, in the nigh years to come. Equally gratifying is it to note the number and variety of other literary undertakings which the past two years have brought to light. Projects more or less ambitious have been set on foot, and a positive amount of fulfilment reached, which is exceedingly encouraging to the quickened mental impulse of the people. The initiation of a series of reference books, such as the "Dominion Annual Register," is of itself an evidence of growth, not only in the material affairs of the