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CANADIAN CULTURE.

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YOUNG Canada is fast putting away childish things, and assuming the attitudes and tones, and to some extent the responsibilities, of nationality. She aspires to become a power in the world, and to take rank one day amongst its most enlightened and progressive peoples. This form of statement, whose truth is doubtless in inverse ratio to its originality, is not intended to commit us to any particular solution of the prematurely vexed question of the future relations of the petted colony to the indulgent mother state. But the fact does surely devolve upon every patriotic citizen the duty of studying closely the tendencies of this critical period in his country's history, and of inquiring anxiously what is to be the distinguishing type of the developing national character. The features of our progress most strongly marked as yet are, it must be confessed, mainly of a material cast. The growth of our commercial marine, the multiplication of railways and other means of internal communication, the development of various sources of wealth in soil and mine, in river, lake, and forest, and the steady influx of a hardy and intelligent, and to some extent homogeneous population, may certainly be accepted as good pledges of rapid increase in the physical elements of power.

So, too, the gradual giving way of the cramping fetters of sectionalism and partyism, as petty local interests are submerged in larger issues and politics broaden into statesmanship, we hail as at once a promise that this material growth will not be stunted by lack of the fostering care of economic science, and a prophecy of a steady development of the political elements of power and prestige. But Canadians, it is hoped, are not the people to be satisfied with either or both these types of national greatness. They inherit to little purpose the blood and the traditions of the races from which they spring, if they do not cherish a higher ambition, if their aspirations do not embrace better and nobler ends than those which in themselves do but tend to luxury and effeminacy on the one hand, or to arrogance and warfare on the other. True, the order of Nature must be followed. The purely physical processes come first and demand the first attention. Bone and muscle and nerve fibre must be developed as the necessary antecedents of brain power. But it should not be forgotten that these derive their chief value from their relations to that brain power of which they are the indispensable, but, as every day's observation shows, not the *sole* condition.