

but none of any great literary importance. In Quebec appeared the histories of Garneau and Abbé Ferland, which, though they cannot be said to be impartial, redound to the industry and scholarship of their authors. In the sixties there were already many writers on law, religion, and science; so that, before Confederation, Canada had a fair foundation upon which to build her literature.

Hence we have already seen three periods in the history of Canadian literature, the French, and early British periods, during which there was practically no literature at all, and the period between the Rebellion of '37 and Confederation during which the generation of writers arose. We now come to the last and greatest period, our own. The Confederation of 1867-1873 united, we may almost say created, the Canadian nation. The national idea has been growing steadily since, and now almost the only reason given by those who deny Canada's nationality, is the absence of a native literature. This accusation which was not true even before Confederation, can, with still less propriety, be advanced at the present time. For Canada has a school, or rather two schools of writers, as Canadian as that of the United States is American, and though not as great, they are certainly as promising.

In history and the allied branches we have in French the works of Turcotte, Sulte, and Abbé Casgrain, and in English the monumental work of Kingsford, and several volumes by that industrious man of letters, Sir John Bourinot. Our best poets, Roberts, Bliss Carman, Wilfred Campbell, Father Dollard, and the late Archibald Lampman, have achieved a reputation not only in Canada, but in the neighboring republic as well. The French Canadian poet laureate Fréchette has had his work crowned by the French Academy, while Le May and Sulte are his close rivals. The history of our fiction of the last twenty-five years is a strange one. The French school after its rather brilliant beginning has almost completely died out, the only novel of any importance during the whole period being a book of short stories by Fréchette, written just last year. Up to 1890, English Canadian fiction was almost equally poor. Then