

our table with a profusion of periodicals, nearly all of which, even the organ of advanced realism, the *Fortnightly Review*, are issuing serial fictions, and these periodicals when bound are the most read of all our books. Appearances, therefore, may be deceptive, and I fear are in this instance.

Our home publishing trade, it will be inferred from my previous remarks, is not large. Besides the few Canadian books, there are reprinted some popular English novels; but since Confederation, the number of articles copyrighted, including books, pamphlets, music, and photographs, has reached only 625.

In the department of newspaper literature,

there has been wondrous growth; but here, more than elsewhere, quantity and quality are in inverse ratio to each other. From a note to the "Canadian Review" for July, 1824, I find that there were then published nineteen newspapers in Upper and Lower Canada, of which only six were even semi-weekly:

4 were published in Quebec; 7 in Montreal; 1 in Brockville; 2 in Kingston; 2 in York; 1 in Niagara; 1 in Queenston; 1 in Stanstead, Lower Canada.

From Rowell's "Newspaper Directory" for 1874, I gather that there are now published in Canada and Newfoundland 470 newspapers and periodicals of all descriptions, distributed as follows:—

PROVINCES.	Daily.	Tri-Weekly.	Semi-Weekly.	Weekly.	Bi-Weekly.	Semi-Monthly.	Monthly.	Bi-Monthly.	Quarterly.	Total.
Ontario .....	23	1	1	212	1		16	1		255
Quebec .....	12	11	3	41		1	17		3	88
Nova Scotia .....	4	5		24	1		4			38
New Brunswick .....	4	3		21			4		1	33
British Columbia .....	3	2	7	17	2					31
Prince Edward's Island .....		1	1	7						9
Manitoba .....				3						3
Newfoundland .....		1	5	5	2					13
	46	24	17	330	6	1	41	1	4	470

In 1867—the first year of Confederation, the Canadian Post-Office distributed 14,000,000 newspapers; during the year ending June, 1873, the number was 25,480,000, an increase greatly out of proportion with growth of population.

Newspaper literature is, therefore, the chief mental pabulum of our people. What then is its character?

If we compare a London newspaper with one of the best New York dailies, we find that they are conducted on totally different systems, and adopt very different styles of writing. Column after column of the New

York *Herald*, for instance, is filled with foreign and home telegraphic news, most of which, though of little importance or interest, costs hundreds of dollars daily. But the editorial page, instead of being occupied with calm and dignified discussions on leading questions, contains, besides one or two longer articles, a number of isolated paragraphs, criticising current events and prominent men with a fierce party bias and an utter disregard of the feelings of individuals, not to say of truth. These comments, though striking, often startling, are too flip-pant in tone to be consistent with the res-