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**THE TICKLER**

## What Canadian Editors Think

### DEFECTIVE IMMIGRANTS.

(Mail and Empire.)

THIS province is taking care of hundreds of people who should be on the public charge in other countries. Our immigration officials seemed to have a rage for large numbers. At all events, they did little to keep the numbers down by excluding the undesirable. People with incurable and communicable disease, people who had been a burden upon the parish they came from, criminals and other bad characters, weak-minded and positively insane persons were admitted into the country and kept here. If a census could be taken of such undesirables that have come to Canada since the beginning of the present century the showing would appear incredibly large. Ontario seems to be the settling basin of the drift of the unfit. Our provincial institutions have been crowded and our municipal and private charities have been heavily taxed as a result of the burden thus thrown on Ontario.

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### POWER OF SONG.

(Toronto Star.)

THE death of Ira D. Sankey recalls to mind the declaration of that ancient sage who said he cared not who made the laws of a people so long as he wrote their songs. How strongly the depths of human nature are stirred by words set to music, and voicing the heart feeling of the multitude, was never more strikingly shown than in the second half of the past century. During that period two great waves of song swept over North America. One told of hatred and suffering, the other of pity and forgiveness. Early in the sixties the cry of the bondsman came up from the south in "Nellie Grey." Scarce had the echoes of the great strife died away than a new voice was heard—the voice of pity and compassion. It told of the great heart of the Father, with ninety and nine of His children safe in the fold, going out after the one lone wanderer far away on the mountains. Starting in the old log meeting houses along the Mississippi, it swept north over hill and vale; it crossed the St. Lawrence, to be taken up by the great congregations of the old camp-meetings held within the glow of the weird light from blazing logs; it added a fresh note to the symphony of the giant pines of the upper Ottawa, where the Gospel was carried by the devoted missionary. The songs of the early sixties were the cry of the slave and the call to war; those with which Ira D. Sankey at once stirred and soothed the multitudes in the eighties and nineties told of peace, and love, and hope for that better day when "The Mists Have Rolled Away."

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### THE OLD HOMESTEAD.

(St. John Telegraph.)

PROF. J. W. ROBERTSON'S statement that, year in and year out, New Brunswick is a better country than the West, but that we do not show enough progress in agriculture, is virtually the verdict of the Scottish agriculturists who recently inspected this section of the Dominion. From many competent authorities, indeed, the Maritime Provinces have heard that they do not live up to their opportunities, particularly in the matter of agriculture. Those who have read Haliburton's "The Clockmaker, or The Sayings and Doings of Samuel Slick, of Slickville," will recall that as early as 1836 the famous Mr. Slick

was continually expressing the truths which are now being repeated to us by such men as Prof. Robertson. Mr. Slick complained that the people of Nova Scotia growled because they were not prosperous, whereas they persistently refused to seize the natural advantages at their doors. Mr. Slick was not popular, as we can readily understand, but he went about with his eyes open. The other day a correspondent, writing from Oregon, repeated a truth that should be familiar in these provinces—that many of our people went away from home seeking prosperity only to be disappointed, or to find that the same effort if exerted here would have produced relatively as good or better results than it won for them in a strange land.

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### THE RIVER BEAUTIFUL.

(St. John Globe.)

THE river St. John is at this hour one of the most beautiful of rivers, and men might travel half, or for that matter, the whole, of the wide world without finding anything to surpass it. The boats upon it ought to be crowded with passengers to enjoy its loveliness; and no one should go abroad until he has looked upon the lovely valley through which it flows, every turn of which discloses some fresh beauty to the intelligent and appreciative eye. What is said of the main river is true also of its great feeders, more especially those in the lower part of the river from the Grand Lake down. On the main river the tourist must naturally stop at Fredericton, which is now arrayed in its richest robes of green; its stately trees, its shady walks, its sunlit groves are full of beauty. The papers noted the pleasure with which some Scotch tourists looked from the top of the University building upon the city beneath and the river beyond. These Scotchmen could not see anywhere in Europe a more pleasing, a more beautiful sight, and indeed, we know of none in America—this continent of beautiful rivers—to surpass it, for it is insurpassable. The man or woman who has not yet looked upon it has not begun to know the valley of the St. John.

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### REPRESENT THE PEOPLE.

(Montreal Standard.)

WE have now reached a stage in our national development when it matters greatly who make our laws. Our national institutions are growing in breadth and meaning. Our national ideals are taking form and definiteness. Our relations with the outer world are becoming close and influential. We are seeking, in song and story and history, for homogeneity. We are striving after a national type which shall express the thought of a young and ambitious people. When we were content to be called a colony, perhaps the character of our representatives did not so greatly matter, for we had but slight bulk in the outer view; but with Canada on every lip, it is of moment that the men who make our laws should reflect, not the opinion of the party caucus, but of the people at large. More and more of our people are conquering leisure and fortune. We want men of this class in Parliament, to counteract the tactics of the professional politician, who goes to Ottawa, first, to draw his indemnity, which is larger than he could probably earn in private life, and to further his own selfish interests.



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