

works of Lighthall, F. G. Scott, and the stories of D. C. Scott are readable, but the quantity is not sufficient to allow of a safe judgment being passed upon them. J. Macdonald Oxley is winning great popularity as a writer of boy stories with Canadian settings, so that we are not surprised to hear him called the Canadian Henty or Kingston.

The most popular and best known of our lady novelists whose subjects are Canadian is Miss Dougall, though she, like Parker and some others, no longer has her home among us. *What Necessity Knows*, a story of 1845, in which the Millerites play a part, is perhaps her best up to the present, for while there are passages of great strength in *Zeitgeist*, yet as a whole it cannot be said to be so perfect as the first mentioned. Practically lost to us for good and all is Miss Duncan, for, Canadian by birth though she is, her subjects are not of the soil, and now in far-away India she seems to have forgotten us entirely.

In spite of the good attempts which have been made by some half-dozen authors, it cannot be said that the novel is the best example of our imaginative prose. For such we have to look to the short story, which, in the last ten or fifteen years, has had such a wonderful development the whole world over. I doubt not but that Parker and Roberts are better known for their fine work in this direction than by their novels. Parker's *Pierre and His People* contains some exquisite gems, which may also be said of the continuation, *An Adventurer of the North*. Roberts' short stories, some of which have been published under the title *Earth's Enigmas*, abound in love of nature, and the character sketches are fine. Especially in his treatment of animal life he is unapproached by any of our writers, as I believe will be granted by every one who has read his *They Do Seek Their Meat from God*, *Strayed*, or *The Rivals*. Another writer, now an *émigré*, who has proved successful in the short story, is E. W. Thomson, formerly of the *Globe*, who has, however, not risen as high as Roberts or Parker. D. C. Scott has also written some charming stories, and among the lady writers Mrs. Harrison takes high rank.

In this sketch the term literature has been limited to the resultant efforts of imaginative creative genius. This excludes all historical and scientific works which are based on research and aim to spread knowledge. These may all be considered as "literature of a given subject." Pure literature they are not, and, lacking the necessary quality of imagination, they cannot be considered in an essay of this character.