

literature and politics in England is very noticeable. Some of the most prominent and most useful members of the House of Commons are as well known in the literary as in the political world. Indeed, there are very few notable English politicians who are not active men of letters. The late Lord Beaconsfield was a brilliant writer as well as a brilliant statesman. In his earlier days, Lord Salisbury was an eminently successful journalist. Other notable examples are Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Balfour, Mr. Morley, and Sir Charles Dilke. Many more names could easily be added. How is it that the Canadian House of Commons presents such a marked contrast to the English House in this respect? The literary inactivity of the Dominion is nowhere more obvious than in our Parliament. There is a very stupid notion largely entertained by the uncultured that literary taste and business ability are incompatible. This is seen, as the Literary World points out, in the reticence displayed by practising lawyers in disclosing their journalistic ventures. It is supposed to be "prejudicial to the obtaining of briefs." It should be quite the reverse. When a lawyer "writes to the press," it is generally because he has something to say and the ability to say it. His love and pursuit of literature has given him ideas, made him more independent in character, more disinterested in his reasons, more elevated in his views. It is reasonable to infer that this would make him a better lawyer, one more worthy of being entrusted with briefs. Success in public life has been won by our best men largely owing to studies in literature. If this is true in politics, why should it not be true in law, or in any other profession of vocation?

#### To the Members of the House of Commons at Ottawa.

THOMAS CARLYLE may have been an unreasonable grumbler in many ways, but his dislike of and contempt for the exhibitions of talk in the British House of Commons would be increased a thousand times if he lived in Canada. There is a story of him that he took a fancy to the present Field Marshal, Lord Wolseley, and prophesied of him that, like a second Cromwell, he would have to execute a second clearance of the Commons. Have we no Cromwell who will do likewise in Canada? Is there no man whose individuality is so strong that he will decide what is to be done, and by sheer force of intellect carry it through? The ordinary inhabitants of the country know perfectly well that things are going wrong. They know that times are hard, money scarce, trade dull, no movement, failure after failure, and they see absolutely nothing done to put these things straight. They have a passionate affection for their country, and desire to see her progress in the path of solid national development. What do they see instead? The whole political energy of their representatives devoted to an Orange and Roman Catholic squabble!

The most important questions are side-tracked to give the grand masters of Orange lodges and fanatic priests an opportunity to become notorious. The debates on the Budget, the most important subject of the session, were dull and uninteresting. The Opposition, who have a legitimate grievance in the entire want of policy of the Government in matters of material development, allow the financial programme to go by without an amendment or a division. They fling themselves into a quarrel about Separate Schools in Manitoba, with every expectation of ruining the Government on a question which demands concession on all sides, and which, if pushed, can only lead to bad feeling and disunion. In short, the whole political intellect of the country has gone awry. The Government, by a bold scheme for public works, a spirited immigration policy, some attempt to develop the mining industries of Canada,

some attention to the urgent problems of national defence, could keep their hold on the country. As it is, there is a bitter feeling of discontent which, if not checked, will sweep away the Government, and their fall will be unlamented. When the people see quite clearly that there is no strong hand on the reins, they will kick over the traces directly they become aware of the fact. A most important convention relating to immigration matters was lately held in Winnipeg. The daily press of Ontario have been almost entirely silent about it. Their columns have been filled with accounts of Orange and anti-Orange meetings. What are the Boards of Trade about? There is no disguising the fact that, in national as well as in municipal politics, Canadians are not doing their duty. In both cases they are surrendering their liberties to inferior men, and in both cases the country is suffering heavily. If Canada is ever going to take her place among the nations of the world, she must turn over a new leaf. In Europe, France, Germany, and England are prosperous. In spite of their heavy armaments, the people are contented. Why? Because they have work. Because their own money is being expended among themselves. Because money is being made to circulate. Here, the money is kept locked up in banks, or else is sent across the line to be used in speculations in American stock markets, for the benefit of the stockholders. This country gains no benefit from this capital. It would be better for the Dominion to borrow money from Europe and lend it itself to farmers and merchants than to allow the present system of contracted credit to continue. The country is in distress for want of circulating funds. Wake up! Members of the House of Commons. Try to think of something else than race and creed quarrels. Devote yourselves to questions like the following:

First, attract immigration. Fill up our vacant lands. Advertise our undoubted advantages.

Second, commence some more public works. The Montreal, Ottawa, and Georgian Bay Canal for one. Some mode of providing the Saskatchewan Valley and the Northwest with a shorter communication with Europe. Or, if not these works, why not deepen the canals still further? This latter work is an undoubted necessity.

Third, how long are you going to allow our mines of gold, nickel, iron, and coal to lie idle? Is there no scheme which can be formulated whereby these resources can be made use of?

Fourth, what are you doing to open new avenues of trade? What about the millions in China and Japan waiting to receive Canadian machinery and farm implements? Can we do no more business with Australia than we do? What about the West Indies? Why is it we have lost our British cattle trade?

Fifth, what are you doing for the defence of the country? England is voting forty-five millions of dollars for new ships. All of this money will be spent in England, among English workingmen. Can you not do something in the same direction? If Afghanistan can make her own repeating rifles, why cannot we? Why cannot we have our own cordite factory? Put these factories in some central place where they cannot be easily got at, and we can turn out our own rifles, and even cannon, if necessary. Why do we go abroad for all these things? Give our own workingmen this work to do. Give our own professional men a chance to obtain employment in their own country. Nickel coins could be minted also, and a mint established for that purpose. Surely these are matters more worth arguing about than whether Orange William or Catholic Pope shall rule Canada.

Again, the people are discontented with the back-stairs work which is going on. What is all the mystery about? Stop these caucuses. If you have anything to propose, any objection to make, anything to criticize, say it in the House. Let your constituents hear it. You are not sent to Ottawa to