

Much is to be done; so much, that your last talent is needed; your last effort is called for in the kingdom of Christ. Lift up your eyes and look upon the world, and let the surrounding scene affect your heart. What untold miseries are to be relieved; what inveterate vices are to be rooted out; what profound ignorance is to be instructed; what scarlet abominations are to be met with a decided frown; what Christian virtues are to be trained and cultivated; what enterprises of heavenly charity are to be enlarged, perfected, and sustained; and what an unnumbered multitude of immortal souls are to be saved from hell, and fitted for heaven! Some of this work is committed exclusively to female hands; and much more might be accomplished by female effort, if your entire influence were made to bear upon the moral interests of the world. Let every female who reads this Tract, (looking to God for the aid of his Holy Spirit,) resolve that she will, from this moment, do every thing in her power to give success to the Gospel, and to save souls; and what might not be done? The church would put on her beautiful garment, the earth would feel the sacred impulse, and the angels would come down from heaven to rejoice. You have influence at home and abroad, over your own sex, and through the various circles of human life; and if this influence were exerted to the utmost, every power called into action, and every resource laid under contribution; if you were to act with the judgment bar before your eyes, and with the joys and woes of eternity pressing upon your hearts, you would prevent an amount of misery which no arithmetic could compute; you would accomplish an amount of good which would become one of the themes of the everlasting song.

Should these motives prove ineffectual, then let females reflect on the evils which must be the consequence of refusing to enlist their influence in favour of the Gospel. You are placed in a situation where you must act. You must be the friends or the enemies of God. You might as soon renounce your existence, as your influence. If it is not exerted for Christ, it must be enlisted against him. If you do no good, you will accomplish much evil. And in such a world as this, it is much easier to do evil than to do good. A bad example, and perverted influence, fall in with the natural current of the heart and world, and, on this principle, a small effort may do great mischief. It is easier to destroy a hundred souls than to save one. What, then, must be the consequence of enlisting your example and influence against the cause of Jesus Christ? This is the true state of the case; for "those who are not for Christ, are against him." Look into your own families, and abroad in society; look down the track of future generations, and along the dread current pursued by the ever-rolling and unwasting ages of eternity, and read the dark history of your present doings! You refuse to exert the influence which God has given you for the glory of his Son who died for you, and for the good of souls who are perishing around you. Nay more, you neglect your own salvation, and use your influence against God, and Christ, and souls. And what is the consequence? You are giving a downward impulse to a world already groaning under the curse of Heaven. You are confirming many of your own sex in irreligion and fastening the bands of death upon them. You are giving a moral tone to a generation who will rise up and rebel against God. You are increasing the gaiety, the pleasures, and the dissipations of society; and thus shutting Christ, as far as in you lies, from a thousand houses, and grieving the Holy Spirit from ten thousand hearts. You are opening channels which are every day filling with troubled waters. You are swelling that stream which bears upon its dark bosom the souls of your fellow-beings to an eternal hell. And, if without religion, you are floating along to the same world of sin and wo.

CANADA AND ITS LITERARY PROSPECTS.

If Jacques Cartier and his companions who visited Stadacona and Hochelaga, in the year of our Lord one thousand five hundred and thirty five, could return to this lower world and review the scenes of their former enterprise and discoveries, from the Saguenay to Isle Bacchus, and from Saint Croix to Mont-Royal, with what feelings of surprise and admiration would they behold the impregnable fortresses of Quebec, and the superb and stately city of Montreal. What would be their delight in conversing with men whose knowledge of literature and science far surpasses that of the "savans" of their own day, on those shores where they heard nought but the song and the war whoop

of savages, and witnessed little else than the Indian dance and the hideous gestures of wild and festive revelry.

Or if Samuel Champlain, who began the settlement of Quebec in sixteen hundred and eight; or the four Recollect Priests, who arrived in Quebec in 1615 when the population of that place was not more than fifty souls, could revisit the shores of the St. Lawrence, how great would be their wonder in beholding the gigantic progress made by the then infant colony towards its present maturity; indicative of the future greatness of Canada; at no distant period, perhaps, destined to quit the fostering and genial protection of the parent state, and proudly maintain those advantages and privileges given by Providence, and assert that equality amongst the nations of America, to which Canadian intelligence, strength, and industry will hereafter be entitled.

It is now more than two hundred years since the first institution for the promotion of Literature in this Province was commenced; the Jesuits' College at Quebec having been formed in the year 1635. And one hundred and fifty years ago the population of Montreal was little more than two thousand souls. Truly may it be said, as it was formerly of Ancient Rome

"Hic, ubi nunc Roma est orbis caput, arbor et herba

Et pauca pecudes, et casa rara suit."

The tide of English conquest, immigration, population, and intelligence, rolled westward as well as eastward. Canada, colonised by the French, who, endeavoring to push their empire northward, southward, and westward, found a jealous, formidable, and victorious rival in Great Britain, was finally subdued by British prowess; the key to her vast plains, forests, and lakes, the proud and lofty citadel of Quebec having been gained by the heroic daring of the renowned and gallant Wolfe.

Since the time that Canada was ceded to Great Britain, and its possession confirmed by treaty in the year 1763, British influence has rapidly increased, and literature and science have lent their aid to advance the prosperity of the rising colony. Schools have been established, colleges erected; the press, the pulpit, the bar, and though last not less important, the refinements of social intercourse, have all greatly conduced to foster a literary taste in the minds of the Canadian community, and to soften down the asperities of life by the elegancies of literature.

But the time has not yet come for the full development of Canadian intellect and literary acquirements, and many reasons may be assigned why British America does not occupy a prominent position in the annals of literature.

And first of all, elementary education has hitherto been greatly defective, and there has been an utter want of that rigid training in the rudiments of knowledge and that discipline of the mind necessary to form a scholar, a clear thinker, or an acute reasoner. Attainments of paramount importance to one destined to enter upon the literary arena.

The plentiful supply of good works in all departments of literature both from Britain and the United States, and consequently the little encouragement for native talent has hitherto deterred the aspirant for literary honours to claim his share of public fame.

The author is as much stimulated to exertion by the expected reward of his labour as the enterprising merchant, the professional man, and the industrious mechanic by theirs.

His genius, talents, powers of observation, description, and reflection, are his stock in trade, and if he finds no market for them, or at least one that does not remunerate him sufficiently, he must direct his exertions in another channel, and follow an avocation which is more profitable.

Now, Canada is a new country: its inhabitants, if not poor, far from being affluent, and engaged in amassing riches, or at least in earning a competency, have neither time, means, nor inclination for cultivating an acquaintance with the higher walks of knowledge.

There is, however, a daily growing thirst for literature, and as wealth increases, and the means of ease, retirement, and repose from the cares of business are afforded, in the same ratio will be manifested taste for and an inquiry after learning; and Canadian authors, however backward, may gain a place amongst historians, poets, legislators, men of science, orators and divines, which shall equal that of the United States, and vie even with the mother country. That this will be the case may be reasonably expected from a consideration of the resources possessed by Canada for Education.