



ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF PARLIAMENT OF CANADA IN THE YEAR 1892, AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

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CANADIAN WRITERS IN NEW YORK.



A DISTINCTIVELY Canadian literature has been the dream of many, and is the ambition of those of the children of this sturdy young country, who have turned aside from the common paths of life to devote their energies to the moulding and developing of the nation's thought and character. There are Canadians so thoroughly patriotic as to believe that it is possible for Canada to excel every other country in the quality of its manufactures as well as in its natural resources; this is the spirit which makes a country, and when unembarrassed by vexing and unsettling political or social questions cannot fail to produce that individuality of nationality which compels recognition. Endowed as Canada is with a climate calculated to develop all that is good and progressive in man's character, with natural resources for every want, and with a population blessed with an almost entire absence of factional disquietude, it can be only a question of enterprise, and the natural course of events when she will send to the markets of the world products which may invite the competition of the nations. With the material progress of the country will move the intellectual; but not hand in hand, for this is not the law of things; the physical needs must first be ministered to, and the literature of a country moves falteringly at first, not foreseeing the day when it will overshadow, and control; and mould that

which once looked pityingly down upon it. At present the literature of Canada is not accorded a place among the records of the nations of the world, but those who believe in the possibilities for achievement of its leaders are beginning to assert, and that with no uncertain voice, Canada's right to distinctive literary work and merit. Our country still labors, as all young countries must, under the drawbacks of a limited field for literary work and there are few indeed of her children who are able to devote their best energies and instincts to the cause of letters; there must be a *reliable* source of income, which forces literary work into the position of a mere supplement. Canadian writers have been made the subject of a number of essays in the magazines of the day, and we have no reason to feel anything but proud of the way in which they have been handled; but while we boast of the work of those of our fellows who are Canadians in *fact* and who have resisted the temptation to seek their fortunes on foreign and, perhaps, more promising shores, we must not forget that there is a large number of writers, born Canadians, Canadians in heart, and hope, and ambition, who have been obliged to make their homes in other countries but who still assert their claim to be sons and daughters of Canada, and who should unquestionably come under the designation of Canadian writers. New York, more than any other city of the world, seems to have been the