

A History of North America.

Gay Carleton Lee, of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, issues an appeal to the public in Canada and the United States for assistance in completing "The History of North America," which he is editing in collaboration with a large staff of scholars and writers. Mr. Lee says the manuscript is nearing its final form, but the authors have reached a point where they desire to leave the beaten tracks of books and records, and appeal to the people for information peculiar and personal to themselves and to localities. In their circular letter they say:

"We desire information concerning the contents of correspondence relating to political, social or economic matters of the period from the establishment of the colonies to 1890. We solicit the use of such correspondence."

"We shall highly value the use of documents relating to any event in the history of the United States, Canada and Mexico, from its beginning to the present date."

"Local legends concerning men and women, places and events, are desired."

"The use of newspapers, handbills and posters of important dates, is important to us for use in supplementing the material we have gathered from the great collections of this and other countries."

"Information concerning the ownership and hanging place of oil paintings portraying distinguished men and women of North America is sought. In this class of data the condition of the painting and the name of the artist are of value."

"We seek information concerning your personal opinion, the personal opinion of your ancestors, and the collective opinion of localities, concerning great men, such as Webster, Lincoln, Calhoun, Davis, Diaz and Laurier; of great events, such as the outbreak of the Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation, the establishment of the Republic of Mexico, the union of the British provinces in North America."

"In the above ways, and in others that will readily suggest themselves to you, your assistance can be given as it is confidently asked. We desire to impress upon you the fact that many matters that to you may appear unimportant when viewed by themselves are to us of great interest when used as units of a mass of corroborative data, and we urge you to inform us concerning them."

There is a wealth of historical material in this district, and probably many of our readers may be of service to Mr. Lee and his colleagues. Certainly no history of North America, pretending to be as comprehensive as the one they are writing, can ignore this portion of the continent. The name of Colonel Talbot alone suggests an interesting chapter. The authors say their aim is to produce a work that shall be absolutely without bias, and shall cover the whole extent of North America. They expect it will require about twenty volumes. There is no general history of America today, but a good many histories covering limited fields or periods. Some of these might well be spared in the interests of truth and international amity. We trust they will be displaced by the new work if the authors of the latter implement their promise to be strictly fair and unprejudiced. Written in that spirit, a standard history of North America should find a wide welcome and prove a great corrective of a flood of so-called patriotic literature, especially of false and distorted views, which give the revolutionary period, Mr. Lee and his colleagues appear to be desirous of doing full justice to Canada, and it is to be hoped their appeal for assistance will be responded to.

The Sun Vs the Moon.

The quarrel between the artist who painted the mural decorations of the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, and the architect who planned the building, is attracting much attention in art circles in the United States and Canada. The artist was asked to depict scenes from Canadian history, and one of his panels represents Wolfe reciting Gray's Elegy while drifting down the St. Lawrence the night before the capture of Quebec. The architect claims the coloring is too dark to be seen clearly from the floor. He wants it changed from moonlight to sunlight, but the artist refuses to see it in that light and has asked for an injunction to prevent anyone else laying a brush on his impeccable canvas. It would be an historical outrage, he says, to portray the famous incident as happening in the daytime, and would make him a laughing stock in the art world. He claims that an artist retains a proprietary interest in his canvas after he has sold it, and that no one has a right to alter or retouch it because the artist's reputation is at stake. The architect and the artist have two standards difficult to reconcile. The former regards the artist's insistence on history and the moon as mere moonshine, and argues that his clients are paying for the work and if they want a sun instead of a moon they should have it. The artist says there would be an aesthetic crime and he refuses to rub out the moon because it would go against his artistic conscience. The architect, however, is not catering to an ideal, but to the people who lounge around in a hotel lobby and who want something obvious and eye-catching when they contemplate the ceiling from the back of their armchairs. Probably nine out of ten of them wouldn't recognize Wolfe's picture if it stared them in the face, and never heard that he recited poetry in

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