

IX. CANADIAN PATRIOTISM THE LEVER OF CANADIAN GREATNESS.

(From an Editorial by the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, in the *Journal of Education for March, 1850.*)

It cannot be too strongly impressed upon every mind, that it is on Canadian energy, Canadian ambition, Canadian self-reliance, skill and enterprise,—in a word, on Canadian patriotism—that depend Canadian prosperity, elevation and happiness. The fact that some men, by honest and intelligent industry, as tradesmen, mechanics, farmers, merchants, and professional men, have risen from poverty to comfort, and even affluence, shows what others might have done by equal honesty, intelligence and industry. In agricultural productiveness, Canada is superior to New York; in water-power and hydraulic privileges it is equal to any of the New England States; in lumber it is a contributor to both the American and English markets; its mineral resources are ample to supply its own implements of industry, as its cattle and flocks are equal to its wants for labour, food and clothing. Its sky is as clear as that of Italy, and its climate as healthy as that of Germany; its institutions are even freer than those of England, and its administration of justice confessedly more independent and impartial than that of the United States. The social and material advancement of Canada in former years was confessedly slow; but compare its progress for the last ten years in any and every respect with that of any of the neighbouring States from Maine to Michigan, apart from the advantages which some of them possess as being the sea-ports and thoroughfares for other States, and the results will be honourable to Canada. Compare everything progressive in those States which is not adventitious but which depends upon home industry and enterprise, and Canada, with all its faults and short-comings, has much more reason to be proud than to be ashamed. It is true Canadian Hippiaes have done much to disturb and retard its interests; but this spirit of conspiring against one's country instead of consulting and maintaining its honour and interests, like an Aristides and a Conon, even in exile, is as alien to the general feeling as it is hostile to the best interests of Canada. But in as far as this spirit exists—this spirit of crying to Hercules instead of helping oneself—Canadian enterprise will be damped, the value of Canadian securities and property will be depreciated, and Canadian progress impeded. In the days of Grecian self-reliance, unity and patriotism, that little peninsula of half the territorial extent of Canada, repelled the most numerous armies recorded in history, and defied a power whose domains extended from the Indus to the Ægean, and from the Euxine to the cataracts of the Nile. Let each Canadian love his country and seek its glory as did the ancient Greeks, during the era when private patriotism and public virtue was inscribed upon their national escutcheon. We have no strife of foreign war—no hostile rivalry of nations;—our warfare is a domestic, bloodless one—a warfare of virtue against vice, of knowledge against ignorance, of self-dependence against foreign dependence, of public spirit against personal littleness, of the love of Canada as ourselves, instead of the love of self against Canada; of the dignified and generous industry of a Cincinnatus, instead of the selfish and protean adventures of an Alcibiades. Surely if

"The shuddering tenant of the Frigid Zone
Proudly proclaims the happiest spot his own;
The naked negro, panting on the line,
Boasts of his golden sands and palmy wine;"

all true Canadians can say to the genial land of their birth or adoption,

"Our bosoms with rapture beat high at thy name,
Thy health is our transport—our triumph thy fame,"