

occupying so supreme a place in the eyes of the average young man in both town and country, when choosing his life-work, would be an inestimable boon not only to the individuals but to the nation. If a larger proportion of such young men could be taught to put a lower estimate upon mere wealth, and a higher one upon a simple competence with usefulness, intelligence, and true refinement; if they could be brought to realize with Horace that the happiest man is he on whom the gods bestow with sparing hand only what is sufficient for his reasonable wants; and if, on the other hand, the conditions of life on the fruitful farm, and in other rural occupations, could be ameliorated, by being made less toilsome and less barren of social and intellectual pleasures, there is no doubt that thousands could find in Canadian country life sources of true comfort and enjoyment far surpassing those which fall to the lot of the great majority of those whose time and energies are all absorbed in the exhausting struggle for wealth and position. The most effective agency for accomplishing this reform is unquestionably a right education. By this we mean not so much learning as culture—not simply the practical training which is given in the technical and agricultural schools and colleges, though this is indispensable, but that education which develops a taste for the delights of science and literature and philosophy, thus giving to the mind sources of pleasure to which it can constantly turn, and which are to a great extent independent of outward circumstance.

With regard to the other great drawback of country life, the dearth of opportunity for social enjoyments, it has always seemed to us that our farmers make a mistake in not adopting to a much greater extent the plan of living in villages, instead of isolating themselves in their lonely farm houses. We have no doubt that as the country grows older this plan will be adopted to a larger extent. One of the chief hindrances, hitherto, has been the want of good roads, especially at the seasons of the year when the most undivided attention has to be given to the farm. The movement which is now making such salutary progress for the improvement of the roads and of means of communication in the country districts will, it can scarcely be doubted, so commend itself to the practical good sense of the dwellers in the country that benefits, social as well as pecuniary, hitherto unknown, will in the not distant future make country life far more attractive than it has hitherto been.

One English judge has held that if a woman spend her own money in supplying necessities to her household, it is not to be regarded as money advanced to her husband, in the absence of a definite engagement to repay it on his part. Another holds that if husband and wife invest money made by them in their joint business in their joint names, the husband alone can use the income as he pleases.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.

DR. BOURINOT'S ADDRESS ON CANADIAN INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT.

The twelfth meeting of the Royal Society of Canada since its foundation by the Marquis of Lorne in 1891, was held in the Parliament building at Ottawa, in the week commencing on Monday, May 22nd, and closed on the succeeding Friday. The programme comprised elaborate essays and monographs on the various historical, literary and scientific subjects, to which the Society has specially devoted itself. Among the contributors were Sir W. Dawson, Abbe Laflamme, Dr. Bourinot, Mr. Whiteaves, Mr. Lambe, Lieutenant-Governor Royal and Schultz, Dr. Withrow, Rev. F. E. J. Lloyd, Mr. Matthew, Mr. James Fletcher, Mr. W. Harrington, Dr. Ellis, M. Faucher de Saint-Maurice, Abbe Gosselin, Mr. Dionne, M. Decelles, besides a number of other members and non-members, as it is the wise practice of the Society to encourage contributions from all literary and scientific sources. In the course of the meeting Dr. Kingsford gave a scholarly paper, in memoriam, on the late Sir Daniel Wilson, one of the original fellows, and Sir James Grant followed with a similar essay on the late Mr. Gisborne, also a member. Among the papers of the English literary section, we notice that a contributor to *The Week*, the Rev. Mr. Lloyd, of Charlottetown, P. E. Island, has written *Annals* of that interesting section of the Dominion, which will appear in due course in the *Transactions* and in separate form. In publishing these local histories with maps and illustrations, the Royal Society is doing a most useful work for Canada.

Prof. Ramsay Wright, of Toronto University, delivered during the week, a most valuable lecture on "The Natural History of Cholera," in accordance with the plan recently adopted by the Society of having one of its members contribute a popular science essay on some practical subject of the day. The President, Dr. Bourinot, C. M. G., gave an elaborate address on "Our Intellectual Strength and Weakness," of which we have obtained an abstract, as the subject is one of special interest to our readers.

Dr. Bourinot commenced by citing some remarks from a brilliant address made before Harvard University by James Russell Lowell, in which he took occasion to warn his audience against the tendency of a prosperous democracy towards an overweening confidence in itself and in its home-made methods, an overestimate of material success and a corresponding indifference to the things of the mind. The success of a nation should not be measured by the number of acres under tillage, or bushels of wheat exported; or, as a Canadian reading the newspaper accounts of our exhibit at the World's Fair, might add, by the weight of a big cheese. The real value of a country must be weighed in scales more delicate than the balance of trade. The measure of a nation's true success, is the amount it has contributed to the thought, the moral energy, the intellectual happiness, the spiritual hope, and the consolation of mankind.

The lecturer then went on to review some of the most salient features of the intellectual progress of Canada since the days Canada entered on its career of com-

petition in the civilization of this continent. So far, there are three well-defined eras of development in the history of the Dominion. First, there was the era of French Canadian occupation, which has in many respects its heroic and picturesque features. Then after the cession of New France to England came the era of political and constitutional struggle for a full measure of public liberty, which ended in the establishment of responsible government about half a century ago. Then we have that era which dates from the Confederation—an era of which the first quarter of a century has only passed, of which the signs are still full of promise, despite the predictions of gloomy thinkers, if Canadians remain true to themselves and face the future with the same courage and confidence that have distinguished the past.

In the daring ventures of Marquette, Joliet, LaSalle and Tonty, in the stern purpose of Frontenac, in the far-reaching plans of La Gallissoniere, in the military genius of Montcalm, the historian of these later times has at his command most attractive materials for his pen. But we cannot expect to find the signs of original intellectual development among a people where there was not a single printing press, where local freedom of thought and action was repressed by a paternal absolutism, where the struggle for life was very bitter up to the last hours of French supremacy, in a country constantly exposed to war, and too often neglected by a king, who thought more of his mistresses than of his harassed and patient subjects across the seas. Yet, that memorable period of our history—days of heroic struggle in many ways—was the inspiring influence of a large amount of literature which we, in these times, find of the deepest interest from a historic point of view. The English colonies during the same period, cannot present us with any books which, for faithful narrative or excellence of style, can at all compare with those of Champlain, L'Escarbot, Sagard, Potherie, Boucher, Le Clercq, the Jesuit Relations, or Charlevoix. These writers were not Canadian in the sense that they were born or educated in Canada, but still they were the product of the life, the hardships and realities of old Canada—it was from this country they drew the inspiration that gave vigour and value to their writings.

During the second era of development under British rule, the brightest and strongest intellect of the provinces found scope for its display in the legislature, and at no period of the political history of Canada, were there more fervid, earnest orators than appeared while the battle for responsible government was at its height. The names of Neilson, Papineau, Howe, Baldwin, Robinson, Johnstone, Rolph, Mackenzie, recall the times when questions of political controversy and political freedom stimulated mental development among that class which sought and found the best popular opportunities for the display of their intellectual gifts. In the legislature, in the absence of a great printing press and a native literature. It is an interesting fact that Joseph Howe, then printer and editor, should have published the first edition of the work of the only great humorist that Canada has yet produced, "The