

have found that my convictions are not easily shaken. There are certainly many Canadians who appreciate books with nice bindings, and admire authors whose works require study. This portion of the public I do not ignore ; but there is just as certainly a very large number of our people who do not appreciate artistic books and magazines. When they buy a book it is simply a question of price, not a question of appearance or intrinsic literary merit. Canada has made great progress towards an appreciation of science, literature and the fine arts ; but we have a great deal yet to learn and to practice before we shall have entirely shaken off all the barbarisms which usually mark those living in a country which is comparatively new.



CANADIAN LITERARY CULTURE.

Dr. Bourinot takes a rather optimistic view of our intellectual development in his very able article, "Literary Culture in Canada," in the July *Scottish Review*. He says that "the five millions of people of two nationalities who own Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific are displaying a mental activity commensurate with their expansion of territory and accumulation of wealth." He points out that the national or thoroughly Canadian spirit now animating Canadians is clearly evidenced by the study and writing of history, and by their scientific and poetical productions. The influence of Parkman, the work of Garneau, the Abbe Casgrain and Dr. Kingsford are estimated, and the poetry of Carman, Lampman, Roberts, Campbell and Scott appraised. Canadian novelists and general writers are fully considered. Then the writer says :

"I think, on the whole, there have been enough good poems, histories and essays written and published in Canada for the last four or five decades to prove that there has been a steady intellectual growth on the part of our people, and that it has kept pace at all events with the mental growth in the pulpit, or in the legislative halls, where, of late years, a keen, practical debating style has taken the place of the more rhetorical and studied ora-

tory of old times. I believe the intellectual faculties of Canadians only require larger opportunities for their exercise to bring forth a rich fruition. I believe the progress in the years to come will be far greater than that we have yet shown, and that necessarily so, with the wider distribution of wealth, the dissemination of a higher culture, and a greater confidence in our own mental strength, and in the resources that this country offers to pen and pencil."

Dr. Bourinot, like some of our other virile thinkers, is not wholly satisfied with the manner in which our educational system works out.

"The animating principle with the majority of people is to make a young man a doctor, a lawyer, an engineer, or teach him some other vocation as soon as possible, and the tendency is to consider any education that does not immediately effect this result as superfluous."

The child is given too many subjects to study, so that he is not taught much of anything. We have plenty of education, but few learned men. Even manners are omitted from this educational preparation for money getting. Superficiality expresses the sum and substance of our educational weakness, and Dr. Bourinot has done well to point this out.



FINANCIALLY.

Financially, Canada is progressing very rapidly at present. The opening of the mining regions of British Columbia and northern Ontario last year has been followed by the discovery of the Klondyke gold-fields this year. But of much greater importance than either of these events is the recent rise in the price of grain and other produce, which will give Canada many extra millions of profit this year. This one year's additional profit to agricultural producers will be five times the profit from working our gold mines during 1896 and 1897, and yet it has attracted about one-fifth of the attention. Our mineral wealth is enormous, but exhaustible, with an ever-increasing cost of production ; our agricultural wealth is more enormous, is inexhaustible, with a cost of production which is being steadily decreased by scientific progress.