

SIMON SEEK.—OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

A Canadian novel, by a Canadian—that is, by one acquainted with Canada—is a novelty indeed, and should be made welcome, whatever be its faults; not that any great degree of forbearance is needed on the part of the reader to make the welcome truly so. This work is the production of a clever man. His tale is full of character and incident; and though Canada is not practically illustrated, still there is no very grievous error committed in its topography. The book is readable, and very creditable to the literature of the country. It is both cheap and well printed, and the half dollar that it costs will by no manner of means be half a dollar thrown away.—*Daily British Whig, Kingston*

Canadian literature is looking up, and gives promise of enabling us ere long to boast of it as something really worth the name. The great drawback to the establishment of a national literature here, has been the encouragement given to the trashy productions, and to the pirated works of English authors, which find their way across the frontier in cheap form, from the N. Y. publishing houses. For years the Province has been flooded with this sort of stuff, called light reading, and the consequence has been that our native talent has remained dormant. There is a prospect of better things, however. We are beginning to see that we must have a literature of our own, and, with a commendable spirit, Mr. Lovell has just issued the best Canadian work of fiction that has come from the Provincial press. The author is anonymous, but we have little doubt he will soon drop his *nom de plume* of "Maple Knot." The principal scenes of the work are laid in our midst; and we are treated to an amusing sketch of some of the leading members of the Legislature, in which many of the characters will be readily recognized. "Simon" is sure to become a favorite; his sayings and doings will excite much interest and meet with admirers everywhere.—*Daily Spectator, Hamilton.*

LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF SIMON SEEK; OR, CANADA IN ALL SHAPES.—Such is the title of a respectable-looking work forwarded to our address by the publisher, Mr. John Lovell. The typographical portion of the book, we may say is far superior to anything of the kind that we have before seen, either in this country or in the United States. The paper, if of Canadian manufacture,* is equal to English make; and the appearance of the book is quite as attractive as the best of American serials. It is abundantly full of incident, is correctly written, and, with but a few exceptions, free from those shortcomings which are ever to be found in first attempts. We admire the intention of the author, which is to picture Canada as it is,—or as it may be, if people will follow the example of such men as Mr. Plumley. Altogether, the work is, in our opinion, far above the common order. Certainly it is our duty to encourage literary talent of home growth, even supposing that we are unable to equal a Bulwer or a Dickens.—*The Times, Woodstock.*

A cursory examination of this new Canadian novel leads us to the opinion that it is a work of some talent,—the production of a shrewd observer of men and manners. The getting up of the work ably sustains the high name which Mr. LOVELL has achieved for himself as a printer and a publisher,—a name interwoven with the credit of this Province. We hope that the work will have an extensive sale, and that Maple Knot will again appear before us.—*Cobourg Star.*

Simon Seek is purely a Canadian work, and, as a literary production, will compare favorably with those of a Dickens or a Bulwer. We have only space to say that Simon Seek is one of the best literary works we have read in a long time; and equals in interest Uncle Tom.—*Canadian Statesman, Bowmanville.*

* The paper was made at the Paper Mills of Alexander Buntin & Co., Valleyfield, Beauharnois, C. E., and the type on which the work is printed was from the Montreal Type Foundry.—*The Publisher.*

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