

literary class in the country, returned to France. The loss to French Canadian literature, occasioned by this event, is practically incalculable. It was only after a century of almost continual sleep that French Canadian literature awoke to remain forever, we may hope, to be one of the glories of our native land. Scarcely had the country, after almost a century of continual warfare, settled down to cultivate the arts of peace, when the American Revolution broke forth, and we had to defend their country against a powerful neighbor. Besides the fame gained by our victory at Quebec, the war had for us one very fortunate result, the immigration of the United Empire Loyalists. Again the colonists turned to agriculture and strove to make homes in the vast forests. During this time, so unfavorable for literature in Canada, New England was now, after several generations of lesser writers, producing not masters, it is true, but writers whose works deserve to be read as long as the English language exists.

But a change came at last. Popular education was improved, newspapers and magazines were established and from the time of the Rebellion of '37, Canadian literature, though of varying quality, has never ceased being produced. The first, and for a long time the greatest, Canadian prose writer was Judge Haliburton of Nova Scotia. His novel, "The Sayings and Doings of Samuel Slick of Slickville, or as it is generally called "Sam Slick," founded the school of American humor. Appearing about the same time as "Pickwick" it gave its author the title of the American Boz. But "Sam Slick" found no successor, and English Canadian fiction, after so auspicious a beginning has, during the whole period from 1840 to 1890, only the works of Major Richardson, Mrs. Leprohon, James DeMille and William Kirby, which are at all above mediocrity. In Quebec it was different, Chauveau wrote Charles Guerin in 1853. During the next twenty years novels, most of them historical and of more than ordinary merit, were composed by Boucherville, Taché, Marmette, Gerin-Lajoie and De Gaspé. This last named is generally considered the greatest. The best poets of the period, Howe, Sangster, Chauveau and the gifted but unhappy Crémazie were thoroughly national in spirit. Some historical works were written in Ontario and Nova Scotia,