

Correspondence.

The Growth of Canadian Nationality.

Editor ARCTURUS:

THE growth of Canadian Nationality, like that of the oak, is undoubtedly slow, but it will prove to be a hardy and vigorous member of the family of nations when once it spreads its branches. The Dominion has within its limits everything that is necessary to make a people prosperous as well as powerful. The wide-awake politicians in the Dominion know this. When you meet them, whether in Frisco, enjoying a view of the Golden Gate from the piazza of the Lick House, or steamboating from St. Paul down the Mississippi in one of the great floating palaces of that noble stream, or crossing the Atlantic in one of Canada's fast cruisers, they are proud of their country. They speak of it in the true spirit of natives, and not in the spirit of braggadocio wherein the American politician was wont to indulge in the days of Mr. Jefferson Brick.

It is a hopeful sign to note that the Canadian in foreign lands not only defends his country with national warmth, but points out the advantages which it is offering as a home for the surplus population of older lands. And well he may, for this country is no "pent up Utica," but more than half a continent, with rivers as great and majestic as those whose names were perpetually dinned into our ears during our boyhood. How much did we hear of the Father of Waters? But have we not within our vast interior a Father of Waters of our own—the mighty Mackenzie, whose waves roll down to Arctic seas? Soon, I fancy, one of the numerous literary lights which centre around Toronto will be seized with a passion for exploration, and will take a voyage down this mighty stream. Upon his return he will write a book entitled, "Four Thousand Miles Down the Mackenzie." Another will give us "A Trip up the Yukon"; another will venture on "A Summer Down the Liard." Yet another will remove much of the ignorance which prevails with regard to the source of the Skeena, and the possibility of Port Essington being the St. John of the Pacific.

Politics have a firmer hold on the eastern Canadian than the geography of his own west, and this should not be. Here are a number of copies of the Boston *Herald* of a late date, containing advertisements under the heading of "Wants from Canadians," seeking menial employment in an over-crowded city at wages much lower than they can get in the Canadian North-West. If there is any subject on which a Canadian writer might wax eloquent, it ought to be in encouraging his compatriots to remain in their own country. If the older provinces are crowded, there is plenty of room here. Assiniboia has just as mild winters as Nebraska, and Alberta has a similar climate to Montana; while to the people of the Maritime Provinces, Northern Columbia is a better country than Washington Territory or Oregon.

The growth of Canadian Nationality is dependent on the settlement and development of the North-West, just as the greatness of the American Union was not achieved until her broad western prairies were opened up to the settler from older countries, and when the young giant of the west with his hundred hands took hold, the greatness of the American Nation was complete. The young Dominion has a great west without which all visions of Canadian Nationality would be as absurd as have been the views of the leading politicians of Newfoundland on the subject of joining the Canadian Confederation, but which views, of late, they have been surrendering as the musty notions of isolation and stagnation.

Probably nothing has given a greater impetus to Canadian Nationality than the first steps of empire which were made when the North-West and British Columbia were made a part of the Dominion. Narrow provincialisms must disappear before the wider and more enlarged status of a Canadian Nationality. When an American goes abroad he is not a Rhode Islander, or an Oregonian, but an American. When a Nova Scotian or a Manitoban travels in foreign lands he ought to be, and really he is beginning to take some pride in the fact that he is, a Canadian.

Regina, March 7th, 1887.

Yours, etc., G. B. E.

Literary Notes.

ANYBODY who is fond of skirmishing around among old and rare books can spend a pleasant hour or two in the establishment of Messrs. R. W. Douglas & Co., in this city. Mr. Douglas is an enthusiast in his calling, and has become a recognized authority in matters pertaining to bibliography. He has managed to get together a number of odd, out-of-the-way books such as are not often found in juxtaposition in Canadian book-stores, or indeed in any book-stores on this continent. Among others relating to the early history of Canada is one important and valuable work worthy of special mention. This is Father Gabriel F. Sagard's *Grand Voyage du Pays des Hurons* published in Paris in 1632. Father Sagard was a member of the Recollets in Paris, and was directed by a congregation of his order to accompany Father Nicholas on a mission to the savages of New France. He sailed from Dieppe in March, 1624, and landed at Quebec three months later. Proceeding at once to the scene of his labours among the Hurons, 150 leagues west of Quebec, he remained some months with them, studying their manners, religion and language, in the intervals of leisure afforded by his missionary work. The privations and sufferings of this life, however, were more than his fortitude could endure, and he returned to his convent in Paris, where he produced his *Grand Voyage* and the *Histoire du Canada*. Copies of the original editions of both of these works are now exceedingly rare. A copy of the former was sold at the Murphy sale in New York in March, 1884, for \$170.

ANOTHER rare book in the possession of the same firm is Gottfried's *New Welt und Americanische Historien*. The author, or compiler, was John Phillippe Abelin, better known as John Louis Gottfried, who was a contributor to and a co-labourer in the famous Great and Small Voyages, published by Merian, the son-in-law of Theodore DeBry. The above mentioned work is generally considered as an abridgment of the Great Voyages. It is divided into three parts, of which the first serves as an introduction, containing the history, geography, natural history, etc., of the New World, taken from the publications of Oviedo, Acosta, Peter Martyr, etc. The second part contains accounts of thirty-three expeditions or voyages to America, from Columbus to Spilberg and Schonten. The third and last part contains a description of the West Indies and Central America, as well as of certain expeditions such as those of Jacob le Maire and Peter Heyn; an account of the conquests of the Dutch in Brazil, and a description of Greenland, Spitzbergen, and other northern lands. This work was published in 1655, and is not only very scarce, but very curious and entertaining.

STILL another, and not less interesting work, is the *Narratio Regionum Hispanos Quosdam Denotatarum Verissima* of Theodore DeBry. This is a small quarto published in 1598. It deals with the relations between the Spaniards and the Indians. It is also profusely illustrated with curious copper plates. The principal object of these plates is to show the zeal of the conquerors in converting the natives to Christianity, which they effected by the exercise of the most fiendish and revolting cruelties. The pictures form a hideous phantasmagoria of roasting by slow fires, pouring molten lead down the throats of resisting victims, cutting off of hands, hanging and slaughtering in every conceivable diabolical manner. It is possible that the translation of this book might cause a sensation much the same as was caused some years ago by the publication of Aaron Goodrich's *History of the Character and Achievements of the so-called Christopher Columbus*, and for precisely the same reason.

THE literary lounge will find much to interest him in the above mentioned establishment, and will moreover find Mr. Douglas full of interesting bibliographical information, which he is always willing to impart to his patrons. We notice that the firm have just issued an eighty-page catalogue of theological books containing 3,130 distinct items, some of which are exceedingly curious and rare. The catalogue will be sent post free to anyone who may apply for it.