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RECENT CANADIAN LITERATURE.*

BY THE EDITOR.

THE writer who may set himself the task of preparing a *précis* of Canadian literature, for even the brief period of two years, will be surprised at the extent and richness of the ground he has now-a-days to go over. Time was when the soil was both poor and scant, and the herbage to be cropped from it was neither succulent nor nutritious; but the land has now been given many years of toil, and not a few writers have ploughed in their first crop to enrich it. We may yet be far from reaping great harvests, but that the soil yields fairly, and, by improved culture, may bring forth more abundantly, is the conviction of us all. Forcing, of course, is to be guarded against, but protection from the nipping frosts is equally important. A too eager expectancy may bring disappointment, but neglect and indifference have wrought their own

evils. In the chilling atmosphere in which, for the most part, our writers have worked, that they have accomplished so much, and that the future is so full of promise, is matter for surprise and congratulation. That so many in the face of difficulties and discouragements have been found to withstand the sovereignty of Mammon, and have devoted themselves to the intellectual life, shows how strong is the belief in the saving power of intelligence, and indicates what attractions are to be found in the pursuit of letters.

There is perhaps no circumstance more gratifying to those who from the watch-towers of patriotism are scanning the intellectual horizon of our young country to discern the coming men, than to find the number increasing of those who are taking up literature as a profession, and to note the still larger number that here and there in the community are fostering a

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