

"The liberal movement in the politics and religious thought of the present day is adequately represented by the intellectual career of Goldwin Smith. Throughout his long life he has been in the van of what he considers the progressive forces of the time. His conception of progress, as primarily a moral process, pervades the entire body of his writings, whether he is dealing with the Canadian Question, with the question of Home Rule, with the condition of the Colonies, or with the temper of the Establishment. So convinced is he that the workings of the moral order exceed in strength all other forms of power that he measures the importance and duration of various social and political institutions by the degree of their conformance to this order. In consequence, he sees disintegration where others see permanence and degeneration where others look for growth. The charge of being a negative and destructive spirit has been frequently brought against him; he claims, however, by the tacit testimony of his books on politics and history, the privilege of a prophet who can foresee reformation only through the intervening spaces of disorder and decay . . . . It is this dispassionate spirit of world-citizenship, this ability to 'look before and after,' which has led Goldwin Smith to attach himself permanently to no party, to hold fast by no creed, political or religious. His manner of life has fostered this cosmopolitanism of thought and feeling."

Despite this occasional restiveness, on the part of some readers of the great publicist's writings, which is itself a tribute to the independence as well as the importance of Mr. Goldwin Smith's utterances, unique as they are in interest, and notable for their breadth, their writer's largeness of grasp, and keenness of critical insight, together with an incomparable beauty of literary style, his work has always commanded attention and the respect due to genius. Throughout the country, now appreciating the fact that it had arrived at the estate of manhood, the critiques and disquisitions of Mr. Goldwin Smith's profound intellect, and his strenuous efforts on behalf of independent thought and speech quickly bore fruit, while sensibly ameliorating the acerbities of political debate, repressing journalistic intolerance, and extending the area of culture and of sympathy with the intellectual life. This was particularly manifest after the launching, in January, 1872, of *The Canadian Monthly*, which, when its aims and qualities

became known as a periodical, was hailed with expressions of hearty approval and satisfaction. With its appearance and promise of permanence, the reproach was taken from Canada that it had not hitherto succeeded in establishing anything ambitious in the way of a national magazine, in keeping with the educational progress and the political, material, and social advancement in recent years of the country. In literary merit, as well as in the freshness and interest of its reading matter, which dealt largely with topics of moment to a wide class of Canadian and other readers, the *Monthly* was admitted to rank high, and to be fully up to the standard of the better class of English and American periodicals. It therefore soon became a valuable and thoroughly independent organ of public opinion, expressive of the intellectual as well as the national currents in the contemporary history of the Dominion, in sharp contrast to the deadening interest heretofore manifest in the things that appertain to the nation's higher life. The compliments paid to the attractive mechanical appearance of the *Monthly* on the issue of its first number were with equal heartiness extended to the reading matter. The excellence of the latter, even in a first issue, was notable, dealing, as it did in its opening pages, with a topic of so timely and far-reaching an interest as "The Treaty of Washington," from the able and well-informed pen of Mr. Charles Lindsey, in which that experienced writer pointed out with moderation, yet with full acquaintance with the subject, the grave defects of the Treaty, passed in the previous year, and which provided for the settlement before the Geneva Tribunal of the Alabama claims, Fisheries disputes, and other differences between Great Britain and the United States. Other contributions of interest were Prof. H. Alleyn Nicholson's article on "Man's Place in Nature," a thoughtful review of Mr. Darwin's "The Descent of Man"; a dialogue on "Anne Hathaway," Shakespeare's wife, by Prof.