

also each written a number of novels. But it is not until we come down to the autumn of 1898 that we at length see what promises to be the genuine and thorough awakening of the long dormant spirit of Canadian fiction.

It is as if the fire of Canadian fiction, after a prolonged period of smouldering, had at length been blown into a fairly respectable blaze which promised in time to develop into a permanent beacon.

While this outburst of fiction is largely spontaneous, it would also seem to be due, to some extent at least, to the encouraging growth of interest among Canadians generally, created, after a mighty struggle, by Gilbert Parker and one or two other pioneers in the field. The scales have been gradually dropping from the eyes of the intelligent Canadian reader; and he is beginning to realize that something of literary merit may really come out of Canada. In no other country has the literary aspirant been compelled to struggle against such heavy odds: but, happily, the dawn of a brighter day is breaking; and as the prospect of appreciation in his native country grows more encouraging, he is entering with enthusiasm into the wide field of fiction.

During the autumn of 1898 there were published—some in Canada, some in England, and several in the United States—at least a score of novels by Canadian authors, most of whom were new to the reading public. These books are of varying merit; but, taken as a whole, they give promise of strong and wholesome quality, and show a finished style of workmanship.

Besides new romances and stories by such well-known writers as Gilbert Parker, Mrs. Cotes, Robert Barr, Grant Allen, and E. W. Thomson (Editor of the "Youth's Companion"), others have been published by such new novelists as Mrs. S. Frances Harrison, of Toronto, Rev. C. W. Gordon, who writes under the *nom-de-plume* of "Ralph Connor," William D. Lighthall, William McLennan, Miss Macdonell of Montreal, Edgar M. Smith (Editor of the "Metropolitan"), Mrs. Joanna E. Wood, Mrs. Henshaw, of Vancouver (whose pen-name is "Julian Durham"), Miss Marshall Saunders, W. A. Fraser, F. Clifford Smith, and several others. These latter we are chiefly concerned with, as they constitute the new blood which has been infused into the Canadian spirit of fiction. Although this is their first appearance as full-fledged novelists, they have nearly all done some previous literary work. Mrs. Harrison, under the pen-name of "Seranus," published some years ago a small volume of dainty verse, "Pine, Rose, and Fleur-de-Lys," consisting chiefly of *villanelles* and other old French