



MERCI(ER) M'SIEU !

"PREMIER MERCIER left the city very quietly on Saturday, on a jaunt to Toronto, where it is said he will pass eight or ten days, being the guest of Premier Mowat, or some other member of the Ontario Cabinet. 'The Premier will not go to any hotel,' said an *intime*, 'because he has some business to transact, and he prefers doing so in a quiet manner.' He will take advantage of his trip to thank the Premier and Ontario Cabinet, and especially Hon. Mr. Ross, for the stand they have taken on the teaching of French in schools."—*Montreal Star*.

HOW TO BECOME A NATIVE CANADIAN LITTERATEUR.

AS most editors must have noticed, there is considerable latent literary ambition flying around loose in this country. Many of our young men and women, ignoring the remunerative careers which lie always open to talent, as bartenders, canvassers for tea and sewing-machines, base-ball champions, speculators in real estate or dime museum freaks, persist in essaying to tread the thorny slopes of Parnassus and the rickety staircase leading to the editorial den. Spite of exhortation and warning they will do it. The following rules for the guidance of such have been drafted by a prominent member of the Royal Canadian Academy, and, it is understood, will be submitted to that illustrious body at its next *seance*, viz.:

1. If possible, get yourself born in England, Scotland, or somewhere outside of Canada, at any rate, and brought up abroad until your ideas and habits of thought are fully matured. This is not absolutely essential, but it is a very great advantage.

2. Be intensely, excruciatingly "loyal," and very patriotic. You will easily demonstrate your loyalty by writing a poem in honor of the Governor-General—any kind of a poem will do, so long as the sentiments are sufficiently enthusiastic. Denounce Yankees and all their institutions on every possible opportunity.

3. Write in a formal, stilted style, and carefully, as you value your reputation, avoid any phrase or expression which is racy of the soil, such as is used in every-day life. Of course Dickens, Scott and Victor Hugo drew copiously on the popular vocabulary, and their works

teem with slang expressions, but for a Canadian writer it would never do to depict Canadians naturally. If you must use slang, let it be pure English slang.

4. Your principal theme will, of course, be Canadian Literature. You will write articles entitled, "Have We a Canadian Literature?" "Need of a Canadian Literature," "Progress of Canadian Literature," etc. As everybody knows, it was by writing *about* English literature, the necessity of having it, and the means of encouraging it, that it got a start.

5. Work the mutual admiration racket, by mentioning favorably all the other native Canadian writers—especially, of course, Prof. Goldwin Smith and C. G. D. Roberts. They will naturally praise you in return. It is needless to say that criticisms and articles upon Canadian writers form the staple of "Canadian literature," distinctively so called. N.B.—It is by no means necessary to have read the writings you praise.

Follow these directions implicitly, and you will very shortly be acknowledged by the fraternity as a native Canadian *litterateur*, and some weeks you may be able to make as much as five dollars by your contributions to the press.

CORRECT.

A HIGH medical authority recommends onions as the most wholesome of vegetables. He says they are particularly valuable as an article of diet for children, making the latter grow up strong and healthy. The doctor is right. Children who are fed on onions can't help being strong.