

knighthood would have been a matter of merit as well as of routine.

The lavish bestowal of honours in these days destroys their value, even to those who might be entitled to some public worth of distinction. Colonels are becoming as common in Canada to day as they were said to have been in the United States when Dickens wrote "Martin Chuzzlewit."* Knights Bachelor are now as common as Colonels. Occasionally some one is made a Baronet or even a Lord. The public were prepared to stand the latter when Strathcona, that great friend of Canada, went to live in England, but it might well have stopped with him. Again, no title could have been too great a distinction for Chief Justice Sir John Beverley Robinson and no one objected to his being made a Baronet, but a recent bestowal of that title on some one else has been the subject of some adverse criticism.

If it is necessary to give some one worthy of it a public mark of distinction as having performed signal service Canada, to those holding big positions, governmental or official, the appellation of "Sir" is as good as anything else. But to dub a civilian "Colonel" is an absurdity, and an insult to the army. It would be quite as appropriate to honour him with the title of "Archdeacon" or "Canon" or "Doctor" or "Professor" or "Admiral" or anything else. It was a funny sight once to see one of these Colonels, a fat lubberly civilian, who did not know the goose step from "extension motions," and badly in need of "setting-up" drill, strutting about in uniform; fortunately for him it was not in regulations to wear a sword or an accident might have happened.

The truth is that these titles are not suited to the climate of Canada. They are exotics, and, as the country does not supply hot houses for them, they will in the course of time probably die out. Titles that die with a person are not so objectionable as those

* "Pursuing his enquiries Martin found that there were no less than four Majors present, two Colonels, one General and a Captain, so that he could not help thinking how strongly officered the American Militia must be, and wondering very much whether the officers commanded each other, or if they did not, where on earth the privates came from; there seemed to be no man here without a title."