

an end to his sufferings. It requires no great amount of discernment to discover that literature cannot possibly flourish in such a country, in the present state of its affairs: for it happens but seldom, in any part of the world, that men can afford to write *merely* for literary fame; much less can it be expected that such will be the case in British America. Under this system then, the whole mass of the people are, in a very serious degree, the losers: for, whilst we have not a literature of our own, we can never have a feeling of nationality, with its concomitants of patriotism and due self-respect; we can never be fully awake to a knowledge of our intellectual powers; we can never have any great moral weight among the civilized nations of the world, nor can we ever have a just conception of the moral position which we ought to hold among those nations.

The next question which rationally presents itself, is, what is the cure for all these grievances? As to the equitable settlement of the *general* question, little can be done in these Provinces at present, except to *agitate* upon the matter—to give free expression to our opinion of this monster grievance, under which the world now labours. That opinion, with justice upon its side, however humbly expressed, will some day have its due effect. But the *peculiar* disadvantages, in respect of this question, under which the Provinces are struggling, might be immediately remedied. These same disadvantages furnish one among the numerous arguments, which may be urged in favor of a legislative union of the British North American Provinces. But, whether or not such a union should ever take place, there can be no possible reason why we should not have an inter-provincial copyright. Why not this as well as inter-provincial free-trade? We know of nothing to prevent this step being taken immediately; and it is one which would place the Provinces in *nearly* as good a position in this respect, as any other part of the world. Even something more might be done. Measures for reciprocal free trade between the Provinces and the United States, are now engrossing a large share of public attention. Most unquestionably if ever such measures should go into operation, the question of copyright between those countries might be and ought to be settled upon the same terms.

This is a subject to which those public men who really desire the welfare of their country, would do well to turn their attention. It is most certain that much can be done, and with comparatively little difficulty, by those high in authority. They may rest assured that for no acts of theirs will they be looked back to by posterity, with feelings of such profound admiration and gratitude, as for those which have tended to the intellectual exaltation of their countrymen.