

## The Editor's Portfolio.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

WITH this number we have made some changes in the arrangement of the matter and hope they will add to the interest of the *Journal*. After this every number will contain a short story as well as an instalment of our young folk's serial. In addition to these we hope to furnish each month several bright, original articles and two or three poems by our best poets. We make an earnest appeal to our readers to help us to extend the circulation of the *Journal*. We must have a very large circulation in order to make it what every true-hearted Canadian must wish it to be. All that you do for CANADA will come back to you through its pages. In this number are contributions from some of our foremost writers. The June number will contain poems by E. W. McCreedy and J. F. Herbin, and prose articles by C. D. Randall and others.

WE have great reason to be encouraged with the progress CANADA has already made. While as yet our circulation is principally in the Maritime Provinces, we have subscribers in five counties of Quebec, in fourteen counties of Ontario, in Manitoba, Assiniboia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, in nine States of the Union, in Great Britain and Newfoundland. This is not bad for a beginning. Let our readers do what they can, and by the end of the year we shall have three thousand subscribers.

IF any of our readers know where a file of the *British American Magazine* may be found, they would confer a favor by communicating with the editor. An Ontario lady, a novel of whose appeared in that publication, entitled "The City Curate", and who has lost her only copy, is desirous of obtaining the loan of the numbers containing the story.

IT seems to be a very natural thing that Canadians should from time to time seek their fortunes in the United States and Americans in Canada. Many lads are never satisfied until they see more of the world than lies immediately around home. But to the absent ones home is still home, and after a few years very many of them will return and do return. The two nations are side by side, and there will always be a passing too and fro. There would be nothing in it to excite remark, if the facts were not exaggerated by unscrupulous politicians. The immigration to Canada this spring seems to be larger than ever before, and hundreds of those who left the country for a time, but have not improved their condition, are returning to the Canadian North-West.

MESSRS. THOMAS MEADOWS & Co., of Liverpool, G. B., writing in the *Journal of Commerce* of that city recently concerning the shipment of goods for Canada, made this extraordinary statement: "All goods for that country must at this season of the year pass through the States." A statement so utterly absurd and at the same time so damaging to the Dominion has naturally excited considerable indignation on this side of the Atlantic. Mr. Cornwall, Secretary of the Board of Trade of St. John, wrote to the editor of the *Journal of Commerce*, showing the error and injustice of the above statement. The editor publishes the letter from Mr. Cornwall, but appends a footnote: "We have no doubt but that Messrs. Thomas Meadows & Co., a firm of high standing, will be able to substantiate their statements." This is pretty cool. As a preliminary to any imperialistic movement, would it not be well for the English editors and merchants to take some lessons in the geography of the most important colonies?

THE informal conference on reciprocity and other matters, which was so abruptly postponed by President Harrison, is to take place, it seems, in October. It is to be hoped that an arrangement may be arrived at advantageous to both countries. The free interchange of products appears natural and right, if it could be extended to all countries with which we trade, and, whatever imaginary evils may be connected with direct taxation, it certainly would bear more lightly upon the poor and more heavily upon the rich. But when such freedom of trade is confined to two nations only, it must be attended with very grave inconveniences, and would appear to promise very questionable advantage to us while our relations with the rest of the world remain as they are now.

IT is unfortunate that anything should arise to lessen the good feeling which has existed between Newfoundland and Canada. We believe a strong sentiment was growing up in the island in favour of confederation, but lately that sentiment has experienced some rude shocks. Perhaps, however, now that the character of the treaty negotiated has been revealed and has so disappointed the people of Newfoundland, the anger against Canada will die away. We do not want to see the island forced by injustice to ally itself with Canada. Unions of that sort are not satisfactory. The time may come when Newfoundland will see that the gain accruing from a union with the Dominion would be mutual.

THE death of Capt. H. B. Mackay, R. E., at Mombasa, on the 17th ult., cut short a brilliant career. He was one of the little band of Canadians connected with the Imperial Military or Naval Service who have shed lustre on themselves and Canada by their ability and courage. We quote the following brief sketch from *The Witness*, of Montreal:—

Capt. Mackay was the son of Huntly B. Mackay of this city, and was at one time on the editorial staff of the *Witness*. He entered the Royal Military College, Kingston, where his career was exceptionally brilliant, he having graduated with the highest honours. As *Dux* of the school he had a choice of three commissions in the Imperial Service. Mr. Mackay accepted a commission in the Engineers and went to Woolwich to complete his studies. He next volunteered for service under Sir Charles Warren in South Africa. Capt. Mackay was next employed at Sierra Leone superintending the fortifications of that unhealthy military station. Returning to England he was sent to Ireland to take charge of a military school. He next volunteered for service in East Africa, under the British East Africa Company, and was selected as the company's representative at Uganda. On his way he was detained at Zanzibar to superintend the construction of the first section of the railway from Mombasa to Lake Victoria Nyanza. He was afterwards engaged in several Central African expeditions. He suffered from the effects of the fever contracted in Africa, even during his short visits to Canada. He appears to have started for home on sick leave and to have died on the way. Capt. Mackay was about 39 years of age.

### CANADIAN LITERARY NOTES.

MR. E. W. SANDYS has been appointed Editor of *Outing*.

MR. DUNCAN CAMPBELL SCOTT has a short story in *Scribner's Magazine* for March.

MRS. ALFRED DENISON, author of "A Happy Holiday", is now on the staff of *Saturday Night*.

To *Onward and Upward* for April the Countess of Aberdeen contributes an illustrated article on "Through Canada with a Kodak".