

results? In southern France the conditions of race, of society, of climate and natural scenery were favourable to poetic sentiment. The language, too, was so adapted to poetry that we might apply to it what Marmontel says of the Italian, "Les Italiens ont plus de peine à fuir la rime qu'à la chercher." It may be a question whether poetry is an effect or cause of such a language, or whether both alike spring from and prove the poetic instincts of the people.

Did that river of poetic literature, of which we trace the uneven flow through the centuries, have its sole fountain head in one favored land? Or is it more natural to suppose that an affluent rippled from many a wooded hillside, that a rivulet trickled from many a mossy nook; that the frozen north contributed from its glaciers, and the smiling south sent on her gathered dews and showers? I strongly incline to the latter supposition, and to the belief that the stream which flowed, shallow but broad and limpid, in the *Languedoc* was not an outburst from a subterranean channel that had its source either in Greece or Spain, but was started and fed from the skies of merry Provence.

THE CANADIAN UNIVERSITY AS A FACTOR IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CANADIAN NATIONALITY.

At the present moment there is probably no question of greater import to the Canadian people than the destiny of their country. The recent upheaval in political circles has excited the attention and astonishment of the civilized world. Whether the National Policy has been a national blessing or a national curse, the true inwardness of Canadian politics is alike inexpressibly painful to decent men of every party. What shall come of all this unfortunate business it would be rash to proclaim. But with all the complex problems of our economic situation, with racial and religious animosities with the grossest forms of political immorality, with feeble beginnings of a national aspiration, is there not the greatest necessity for cultivating a true *Canadian* sentiment? It seems to me that above all else there is needed at this time a strong and widespread feeling that Canadians have come on this continent to stay. There is no need of jingoism or the political stalking-horse, but a calm and firm determination to maintain our national

existence. Amidst all the difficulties that surround us, let us stand up and say to all the world that the Canadian people have a united aim. It is not implied from this that my fellow-countrymen are of all men most lacking in patriotic endeavor and unanimity of spirit. Indeed there is good reason to believe that so far as his native town or province goes, the love of country is as deeply rooted in the average Canadian as that of his parental fireside. But my observation in New England and the Maritime Provinces leads me to believe that with the masses this sentiment is too provincial and superficial. Among the more intelligent and educated Canadians it is pleasing to know that there is a strong and healthy growth of national aspiration. With them Canada is no longer a mere dependency, the united provinces of which are destined to disintegration and decay. They cherish the feeling that upon the foundations laid by those patriot fathers in tribulation and blood there shall one day rise a prosperous and mighty commonwealth whose corner-stone is justice, and whose top-stone is liberty. As Mr. Bourinot says "We see it in the larger aspirations and the higher patriotism that are animating a large body of our young people and especially of the young men who, proud as they are of their parentage, at the same time are beginning to feel a natural gratification in the reflection that they are Canadian."

There is certainly some inspiration in this. But our present relations to England and the United States will not allow us to stop here. There must be a sentiment to pervade *all* classes. The fisherman who sinks the net, the farmer who drives the plough, the mechanic who follows his trade, the lumberman who swings the axe, in short every citizen from the humblest cottager in the village to the Prime Minister himself, must feel and know alike, that they are participants in this common national life. In every large enterprise let the great productive classes of our community be considered, for they too want not only to live, but to live well. It is not my purpose in this brief survey to enter into party problems and their solution. Nor shall I attempt to point out the numerous ways whereby a greater interest in our country and its resources could be aroused. Just now I am concerned only with the question, what work can a University do?

That the Universities in Canada are today doing a