

PATRIOTISM.

The Danger of Reading too many Foreign Magazines

A Letter in a recent issue of the *Montreal Daily Witness*.

Editor Home Department,

I think the very best thing we can do to make boys and girls patriotic is to give them a good conceit of themselves and their country. Add to a love of Canada a knowledge of her political, social and physical advantages, and bring them up in such a way that they will be fitted to develop her resources, when the time comes for them to earn a living. There is a common quality characteristic of both John Bull and Uncle Sam. Each one firmly believes there is no one like himself, no nation like his own. Foreigners may not find this agreeable, but, backed with pluck, brains, and work, it has taken them both where they are. Neither of them ever knows when he is beaten. There is no enterprise too big for them to undertake. Why shouldn't Canadians be equally sure of themselves? We get on wherever we go, why shouldn't we stay at home and do better?

I maintain that efficient as our schools and colleges are, the training and schooling Canadians get does not tend to make our boys and girls eager for the work the country has to offer the majority. We forget that we cannot supply clerical situations, professional openings and mercantile enterprises for the number we are educating for such positions, and that the great physical riches of the country lie largely idle for the want of laborers. We don't want only stupid boys and dull girls to take to farming as a last resource, but we want the educated, alert man with

healthy body who will know best how to make our land yield up its treasures, and he needs the educated, quick-witted, domestic girl of sound physique to bear him company. People will avoid the tilling of the ground until the intelligent man of the future with capital makes farming what it should be, a healthy, happy, remunerative, co-operative occupation, giving occupation to himself and others, and managed in such a way that the woman does not sink into the over-worked drudge she too often is to-day. If philanthropists would only spend their money in making country-life as attractive as they do the city, I believe our country would be vastly improved and our people happier. Teach our boys and girls that the men and women who are going to build up our country must be sound of brain and muscle, and put them in the way of getting work when they are properly equipped for it, and they won't want to leave the country. Why don't parents see that they patronize Canadian and British magazines? If we feed our own and our children's minds with those of the United States, which never lose an opportunity to praise the republic, how is it possible to go on believing in the superior beauty and strength of our own government and country? What stronger agent can there be to cultivate proper patriotism than reading? Why can't we make up our minds to support better the magazines that belong to ourselves and the Mother Country?

J. M. LOES.

EVERY PATRIOTIC FAMILY SHOULD READ

The Canadian Magazine

Per Annum, \$2.50

TORONTO, ONT.