

the name of the Dominion of Canada. Lower Canada was called Quebec, and Upper Canada Ontario.

THE LEGISLATURE is composed of a Governor General, a sort of a constitutional viceroy, named by the crown; of a Senate, and a House of Commons. The Senate consists of seventy-six members, appointed for life by the crown, of whom twenty-four each are from Quebec and Ontario. The House of Commons is representative, its members being elected for five years. The Dominion now includes Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward's Island, British Columbia, Manitoba, and the territory of the North-West, or Hudson's Bay Territory. Thus it is fulfilling the prediction of the great American statesman, William H. Seward: "Canada is destined to become the seat of a great empire, the Russia of North America, but a Russia with civilization more advanced than the Russia of Europe." An illustrated paper of the Dominion has published a patriotic caricature representing the Canadian Gulliver with a debonaire and placid figure, without any implements save his own gigantic arms and hands, seizing and swallowing the greater part of the American continent, while a crowd of Lilliputians, armed to the teeth, Turks, Yankees, Germans and Italians, survey him with an envious and astonished air.

In order to develop her resources, and to open the way for immigration, that her immense tracts of unused land may more rapidly become the granary of the world, Canada is furrowing her domains with canals, and interlacing them with lines of railroads. The Grand Trunk railway, traversing the country from Portland, Me., to Detroit, has been built, with its Victoria bridge (one of the most noted structures in the world) crossing the St. Lawrence opposite Montreal. Immense sums of money have been spent in order to convert the St. Lawrence into a canal. And now she is constructing a transcontinental road, which, binding the two oceans from Port Moody to Halifax, will cross the entire confederation. They expect to finish this route in 1886, and it is estimated that the journey from Liverpool or Havre to Japan will be a thousand miles shorter by this road than by the transcontinental routes of the United States.

Almost in the middle of the Dominion, at an equal distance from the pole to the equator, lies the territory of

MANITOBA.

There lived in 1869, a population half nomadic, called the half-breeds, sprung from marriages between the French Canadians and the Indians. They spoke the French language, and professed the Catholic religion. After the delivery of this country by the Hudson's Bay Company to the Dominion, the Government determined to direct toward it a stream of English emigration. They sent a governor and some surveyors to reside at Winnipeg, the capital. But the natives warned them they might look for trouble if they attempted to place, without consulting them, new inhabitants upon the land which they and their ancestors, from time immemorial, had held and enjoyed. The government was not to be frightened, and so the conflict came. The half-breeds obliged the governor to leave, and constituted a provisional government, with a president at its head. They then drew up a declaration, of which the following is the preamble:

"We, the representatives of the people, assembled in council at Fort Gerry, November 24, 1869, after having invoked the God of nations . . . solemnly declare, in the name of our constitution and in our own name, before God and men, that we refuse to recognize the authority of Canada, which pretends to have the right to command us and impose upon us a despotic form of government."

Later, however, they changed their opinion, and entered into negotiations with the federal government. But at the moment when all things had been arranged without bloodshed, the English colonists, who were very numerous around Lake Winnipeg, rose in insurrection against the half-breeds. The president of the latter, Louis Riel, who took upon himself the role of dictator, had the leading mutineers seized, and their chief, named Scott, was tried, condemned and shot. Far from establishing his authority,

this execution discouraged the natives themselves, and when two battalions of militia under Col. Wolseley arrived on the ground, they were welcomed as liberators by the half-breeds, and Riel, with his leading accomplices, fled to the United States. A compromise was then effected, and Manitoba was annexed to the Dominion as an autonomous province. It sends to Parliament two senators and five representatives. Winnipeg contains 30,000 inhabitants, and property has increased its value to an extraordinary degree, as the following anecdote will show: A parishioner of Archbishop Tache, obliged to leave the country, sought the archbishop, and excusing himself for not being able to pay the rent of his church pew, offered as part payment a small piece of land; "scarcely what would pay for a low mass," timidly said the poor man. Ten years later that land brought \$14,000.

FINANCES.

In spite of the expenses occasioned by her canals and railroads, the people of the Dominion are, perhaps, among all the tax-payers of the civilized world, those upon whom the smallest rates are levied. There is no standing army, only a simple militia of about 60,000 men. The total expenses of government in 1884 amounted to \$28,730,157. The receipts for the same year were \$36,800,000. The minister of finances, in making out his estimates for the year 1885 placed them as follows: Expenses, \$29,811,039; receipts, \$31,000,000, which were to be raised as follows: Duties, \$20,000,000; excises, \$5,500,000; postoffice returns, \$1,000,000; public works, \$3,000,000; interest on investments, \$750,000; other sources, \$800,900. Duties on goods supply the source of two thirds of all the receipts. In 1880 they adopted a very strict system, which, without any distinction, exacts duties from English goods as from any other nation. On the other hand, England has granted to them the right of concluding treaties of commerce with foreign nations.

The only difference of opinion in regard to the question of tariff existing between the two parties is that the liberals wish the laws of entrance to be more moderate than the conservatives have made them, but neither of them will adopt the cosmopolitan theories of European free trade. The English compare protection to a bullet, Canadian tariff to a museum of instruments of torture, and declare that in following the example of the United States, the Dominion has forgotten the fable of the frog which wished to become the size of an ox. The Canadians hold that they shall do what they think best for their country, and that duties are the taxes least inconvenient to raise; that they save national work; and that they not only have made up the deficits of the past, but have put into the treasury an excess, so they have been able to reduce them to the amount of two and one-fourth millions dollars. The tariff for protection has become a tariff for revenue.

Since 1853 especially,

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

has made great progress. Those people who, under the patronage of the crown of England, have realized the ideal conception of a conservative and Christian republic, hold that public schools are among the luxuries of a young nation, and do not hesitate to impose upon themselves heavy sacrifices, as they believe they will result in good to their children. In the province of Quebec alone, government expended during the year 1882-83, \$350,000 for school buildings, while the contributions paid directly by the people amounted to more than \$2,000,000. In a population of 1,359,027 inhabitants, statistics show that there are 5,039 schools of different grades; 7,211 professors and teachers, and 245,225 scholars, making an average of one scholar for every six inhabitants. As to universities and colleges, they do not come under the school regulations, but are independent institutions, which, however, may receive appropriations from the government on condition of making a report each year to the superintendent. When in a school district there live a number of families who profess a different religion from that of the majority, they have the right to have for their children separate schools, under the care of three officials; chosen by them. Thus Catholics and Protestants have equal privileges, and everything is done to secure respect for religion, independence to the citizen, and his active and constant interest in educational matters. The circulars of the present superintendent, M. Ouimet, define in clear terms the spirit of the school laws in Quebec: "In our system of primary instruction we first teach the children the catechism

of true religion, in order that they may know how to serve God; then the manuals of agriculture and of design, in order to put them in condition to serve their country. For God and country! Behold the words which the Canadian legislature has inscribed on the walls of her educational institutions. The state unites itself to the two systems of religion in the matter of education, and does not authorize any school to be atheistical, but demands of it to be Christian before it accords help. It does not provide that one church shall be helped rather than another. Full and entire liberty it demands, and from this comes perfect harmony among the people."

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

marches by the side of educational liberty. Each church supports itself; the state no longer takes cognizance of clergy or congregations, to protect them, to annoy them or to persecute. They can, as the citizens, found a university, a college, or a school.

Men such as Lavallee and Racine have accomplished wonderful results in planting in the most barren regions, at the peril of their lives, strong and flourishing colonies. "Go west," incessantly repeated Horace Greeley to young Americans. "Go north, French Canadians and Catholics," said Father Labelle, with a prophetic foresight.

CANADIAN LITERATURE

only dates back to 1840. Before that time it was made up of songs. Such a literature was absolutely essential to the gay and sociable race who consoled itself, in all its troubles, with stanzas. There was a time when France held the government under control by her songs. Did any Canadian patriot attract attention by some great deed? At once a song was written. Was the question that of elections? They addressed themselves to some crude poet, and sharp, malign couplets soon overran the country. The festival of St. Jean Baptiste has furnished many a contribution to this list, and Sir George Cartier owes in great part his popularity to the fact that he composed one for the first banquet, in 1834. Often among the remote rural districts are found people possessing magnificent tenor voices, which would make the fortune of an impresario who would come from the other side of the water to look them up.

"We are yet amateurs," said one of their writers to me. Without endorsing this very modest judgment, one can but admit that up to the present time our American cousins have been more occupied with making history than with writing it. Action has absorbed thought. They have run, closely pressed on all sides, to the conquest of political liberties. The books which they published during their unsettled national history partook of the character of the times, as the great work of Garneau will show, which was a revelation to his countrymen, and was of more value to them than an army, since it assured them of a nation's faith and the certainty of success. The greater part of the writers have been obliged to tax their ingenuity for a livelihood, and too often politics, that deceptive siren, keeps them from those severe studies which alone will bring talent to maturity.

In poetry, M. M. Cremazie and Louis Frechette have left behind them all rivals. High inspiration, poetic fervor, appreciation of nature, and love of country have made them true poets. One cannot read without emotion some of the productions of M. Cremazie. His patriotic songs, which seem to have been breathed from the very heart of the country itself, in a language harmonious and vibrating, do not for an instant decline in interest or power. The verses of M. Frechette are written in a graceful style, and possess a youthful freshness. In history, M. M. L'Abbe Casgrain, Benjamin Sulte and Joseph Tasse have become distinguished. M. Tasse, in his book, "Canadians of the West," tells of the pioneers of the American continent, those who penetrated into the icy regions of the pole, who crossed the Rocky Mountains, and spread over the fertile plains of Mexico; and has shown that of them all the French in the Canadian settlements were the only ones who treated the Indians honorably and kindly, and who succeeded in winning their respect and affection.

The group of prose writers and romancers is increasing every day. One of the best, without doubt, is M. J. C. Tache, the author of three legends, each of which characterizes an epoch in the history of the Indians. M. de Gaspe, with his "Ancient Canadians," and M. Joseph Marmette, with his historic

romances, have acquired a well merited reputation.

What, then, shall be the aim in the future of Canadian literature? To acquire now strength and vigor without ceasing the study of the past; to revive the glorious annals; to gather with a pious care its legends; to identify itself also with the present; to paint the manners and the contemporaneous social life; to note and to report the majestic symphony of their land; never to lose sight of the thought of Carlyle, that the universe is a temple as well as a workshop. Such will be the duty of Canadian writers.

The Canadians through all the years since their country passed out of the hands and the control of the French, have clung to them with great affection, drawn by some profound and mystic instinct, by the lines of heredity, the power of traditions, the religion of memory. They are not ignorant of the fact that if they had remained united to France, they would not now have, in all probability, their free social and religious institutions; they would likely have formed an administrative colony such as Algeria. They know that it was England who sent them, under hard circumstances, perhaps, to the school of liberty, and to her they are indebted for their prosperity, but they look to France still as their mother country. Why should not that country give them some more solid proof of its affection? While with South America the annual exchanges of France are counted by the hundred million, and great numbers of French people emigrate thence, her total commerce with Canada does not exceed \$15,000,000, and it is with great difficulty that she has commenced to send thither a few of her citizens. Why should not French emigration direct itself toward a country where wages are good, the soil fertile, where property offers itself to all, and where a welcome is awaiting them? Why should not the French go to visit the Canadians and learn of them how a people became and remain free?

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

LORD BEACONSFIELD.

BY H. M. H.

It is four o'clock in the morning of Tuesday, 19th April, 1881. In a sumptuously furnished room at Hughenden Manor, Lord Beaconsfield's country seat, the curtain has rung down upon the last act in the thrilling drama of "Vivian Grey." For full fifty years this play had occupied the boards of the English political theatre. Now the brilliant performer who had filled the title role of the piece is no more. The "trained lightning" flash the news from city to city and from continent to continent.

The literary world, still deeply immersed in "Endymion," mourned because the active, fruitful, myriad-sided brain had ceased to act.

In the political world, the very atmosphere of which was charged with the theories and opinions of the great statesman, the announcement of his death was received with profound sorrow. Kings, queens, emperors and presidents wired messages of condolence, and the queen of the realm did honor to the deceased earl in expressions of the sincerest sympathy.

The marvellous career of Benjamin Disraeli possesses peculiar interest for those who wish to distinguish themselves in the race of life. This being the fact, a brief glance at the history of one whose labors have been so noteworthy, and the incidents of whose life are so full of thrilling and romantic episodes, must be attended with good results. The reciting of such narratives has often proved an incentive to lofty endeavor and the spark which fired a noble ambition.

It is not precisely known in what year Benjamin Disraeli was born. Mr. Picotto, an intimate friend of the family, says the event occurred on the 21st of December, 1804, whilst Disraeli himself fixed the date a year later—1805.