

second edition, those inaccuracies and omissions, which are clearly traceable to the hurry in which the essay was prepared:

"The people, I may say, of all North America—I mean the descendants of the British race, and emigrants from Britain—are, perhaps, of all others the best trained to understand and to enjoy the benefits of representative institutions. Their habits of self-reliance and the necessity for combination to effect the simple purposes of existence—to build the log hut far in the woods; to "log" the first acres of ground cleared; to throw a bridge over a stream, or to clear a road into the forest,—naturally lead them to respect skill, and to put themselves under the guidance of talent. The leading spirit of a "logging bee," and the genius who presides over the construction of a barn, what more natural than that they should be elected, at the annual meeting of the neighbourhood, to oversee the construction of bridges, and to judge of, and inspect, the proper height of fences? And this is the first legislation such a people have to do. The useful individual, too, in a settlement, who draws deeds and wills, and settles disputes without law, and gives good advice without cost, what more natural, also, than that he should be selected by the people he benefits by his education and his kindness, to make their laws, and to guard their interests? The Canadian people, too, have no tenant rights, nor "trades unions" to secure higher wages, or to prevent too many hours work. Their necessities are their orators. Their ways and means of living, and taking the best care of what their labour brings them, are the principles by which they are governed. Their democracy begins at the right end; for, instead of weaving theories to control the property of others, they think of but the best means of taking care of their own. Need it be wondered at, then, that a people so educated—and such has been the universal education of North America—should know how to govern themselves; should gradually rise from the consideration of the affairs of a neighbourhood to those of a county and of a country; that they should have sufficient conservatism to guard the fruits of their industry, and sufficient democracy to insist upon the right to do so. And such is a true picture of the Canadian people. Their municipal system is but a small remove from the leader of the "logging bee" being elected builder of the bridge, and their parliament is but a higher class in the same school of practical self-government. Their being given in fact the entire control of their own affairs was but removing expert seamen into a larger ship; and Great Britain has but to consider, in dealing with her other colonies, that the ship is always adapted to the sailors. For, the understanding a people is of infinitely greater importance, in giving them a constitution, than the understanding ever so well abstract principles of government."

We now proceed to examine the essay by Mr. Alexander Morris, A. M., to which was awarded the second prize. Mr. Morris in his preface "disclaims all pretension to originality," and tells us that "his labour has been the plodding one of a compiler." This essay is about one-fourth longer than Mr. Hogan's, and embraces copious extracts from the admirable reports of Messrs. Logan and Murray; the first chapter, referring to the geological structure of Canada, being condensed from the Report of Progress for the year 1843. The descriptions of the geographical features of the Ottawa Region and of the Eastern Townships, are very full and complete, and in general, the geography of Canada is given with considerable minuteness of detail.

Mr. Morris has, however, succeeded in disarming criticism, by limiting himself strictly to the duties of a compiler, without entering into any speculations or descriptions, which give a charm to Mr. Hogan's essay, and contribute so much to make it a readable book. Indeed the second prize essay may be described as a condensed series of miniature Blue Books, in which the chief facts relating to the products of the forest, the mines and fisheries, agricultural produce, manufactures, and commerce, are given with considerable precision and in the plainest language. The chapters on social institutions, educational institutions, political institutions, and statistics, while containing a very large amount of information, are evidently written by a gentleman whose form of thought and style of expression have been influenced by the study of a rigid profession, which

of all others is least susceptible of adding a charm to the description of social progress, or interest to the dry enumeration of political and commercial triumphs. Mr. Morris's professional position enables him to write with advantage on the political affairs of Canada:—

"The Government of the Province is conducted by a Governor General, appointed by the Crown, who presides at the deliberations of an Executive Council nominated by the Crown, but who must, according to the theory of Responsible Government, in practical force in Canada, possess the confidence of the people, as evinced by a majority of the House of Assembly; and who, consequently, may lose their places on a vote of want of confidence. The Executive Council is composed of the following officials, viz.: a President of the Committees of the Council (who is also Chairman of the Bureau of Agriculture, and of the Board of Registration and Statistics); a Provincial Secretary, an Inspector General, a Commissioner of Crown Lands, a Receiver General, one Attorney and one Solicitor General, one of each for each section of the Province; a Commissioner of the Board of Public Works, and a Postmaster General. These incumbents preside over the public departments indicated by their titles, in addition to exercising the functions of Executive Councillors. On the acceptance of office, the incumbent elect, unless a Legislative Councillor, must present himself to the people for re-election. The Solicitors General are not necessarily Members of the Cabinet.

"Such is the system of governing by Legislative majorities and responsibility to the electors, which is in force in Canada. Practically the Government of the Province is self-government, the British Government rarely interposing the weight of its authority, but, on the contrary, distinctly enunciating its desire to allow the Province the widest latitude in self-government, compatible with the Colonial relation. In fact, the Canadas enjoy the largest measure of political liberty possessed by any country or people. The public offices, and the seats in the Legislature, are practically open to all. The people, by their representatives in Parliament, regulate all matters of Provincial interest, and by their municipal system they regulate their municipal matters, while they possess and exercise the power of rejecting at the polls those who have forfeited their confidence. The inhabitants of Canada are bound to Britain by the ties of common interest, common origin, and filial attachment. Owing a grateful allegiance to their Sovereign, they are proud to share the heritage of Britain's ancestral glories, while they are not slow in evincing their sympathy with her struggles, as the magnificent grant of £20,000 sterling, gracefully appropriated by the Legislature to the Patriotic Fund, and to the widows and orphans of the soldiers of her ally, France, proudly shews. The policy of Britain is a wise one. She is building up, on the broad foundations of a sound political liberty, freedom of thought and conscience, a colony which will one day, (though the connection will never be rudely severed,) attain the position of a nation, and peopled by inhabitants knit to Britain by the strongest ties of blood, and identity of feeling, will strengthen her hands and support her position by the reflex influence of sound, national and constitutional sentiment.

"The future of Canada is a brilliant one: a great problem is being wrought out in her history; and, on review of her immense resources, and on a glance at her hardy, self-reliant population, the mind is irresistibly urged to the conclusion that her destiny is a grand one, and that, on this American continent, she may yet be destined to play no insignificant part among the role of people."

Dr. Lillie's essay, entitled "Canada—Physical, Economic and Social," was passed by unread, "on the alleged ground of the illegibility of the manuscript;" the author has therefore assumed the responsibility of its publication, partly on account of the fact of his having written being generally known, and partly in the hope of diffusing information respecting Canada. Dr. Lillie's essay is more than double the size of Mr. Hogan's, and considerably exceeds that of Mr. Morris,—it contains nearly 204 pages of printed matter, together with two excellent Maps, one of Upper Canada and the other of Lower Canada. The essay is divided into three parts, as its title implies. One hundred and thirty pages are devoted to the physical description of the country, the subject of geology forming by far the most important and extensive of this division. One hundred and seven pages are devoted to the economical history of Ca-