

THE BYSTANDER.

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EXPERIENCE has proved the difficulty of maintaining a Canadian Magazine in face of the competition to which it is exposed both from the side of England and from that of the United States. Our rivals are supported by an overwhelming amount of capital; our area of circulation is small, and it is cut in two by the French Province. But the same experience seems to show that there is a demand for a monthly survey of current events, Canadian and general, from a Canadian point of view. An English periodical cannot often deal with Colonial affairs, and, if it could, its reflections would call always for a supplement, and sometimes for an antidote. The political press of Europe is under the special influences of its own Continent; and among those influences at present are lassitude and disappointment, the legacies of revolution, and the cynical scepticism engendered in all spheres of thought and action by the rapid decay of religious belief. It is not well that the unwholesome dew of the European reaction should be distilled without correctives on the fresh character and unblighted hopes of a community of the New World.

On the other hand, Canadian affairs cannot be adequately treated by themselves. The influence of nations on each other is everyday being increased by mutual intelligence and sympathy, while the rapidity of international communication has made one audience of mankind.

Our point of view is Canadian, but outside the Canadian Parties. That such a position is at all events possible the most