

THE SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.—A LITERARY FRAUD.

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BY NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN.
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On going a few days ago into Mr. Durie's shop, I saw on the counter a pamphlet entitled "*Canada as a Home*." The subject is one which has always been full of interest for me. I glanced through the pamphlet. I found to my surprise in almost every sentence gross grammatical blunders; blunders such, that if they appeared in an emigration pamphlet, the author would not be allowed to again show his face in the Department of Agriculture. I turned to the title-page of "*Canada as a Home*" and read:

"By John George Bourinot, *the* Clerk of the Canadian House of Commons, Fellow of the Statistical Society of London and of the Royal Colonial Institute, Honorary Secretary of the Royal Society of Canada, &c."

I laughed, and found myself humming a line of Canning's which I parodied:

"Smudge's diamonds and his dirty shirt."

Here were these worthless decorations on the cover of a pamphlet in which there is not a line which does not contain offences against literary taste, and in which, I repeat, it is hard to find a sentence without grammatical blunders, for which a school-boy of eleven years of age would be disgraced. As one should expect, there is a looseness of thought corresponding to the imbecility of language.

On page 5 we read:—

"Quebec and Port Royal were in existence when the Puritan pioneers were toiling among the rocks of New England. But *ever since* Canada became a dependency of Great Britain, her progress has been more or less retarded by the fact of her close neighborhood to the American Republic."

Here it is implied that contiguity to the American Republic has been inimical to Canada's progress, only because she is a dependency of Great Britain. What does he mean? If Canada were a dependency of France would this contiguity not have operated in the same way?

On the same page we read

"A stranger to Canada and her resources would naturally suppose on revising the statistics of emigration in the past, that there must be some radical weakness in the political institutions of the Dominion, some illiberality in its