

practical science, the unspeakable blessing of cheap light ; the expansion of our marine and internal navigation, our political mutations, our great unmanifested destiny, all contribute to raise our estimate of the country of our birth or of our adoption, and have given to Canada the first place in our affections. In what respect then can these School books be fairly defined as the "National Series" when the name of Canada is scarcely mentioned in their pages, or only obtains a passing and contemptuous reference? Should not every leaf of these little volumes while conveying the seeds of elementary knowledge to the children of the land, stimulate their youthful patriotism and exalt their love of country?

Is it too much to expect at this period of our national wealth and social culture, that the intellect and acquirements of our advanced men shall be put in requisition to produce a series of books for our Common Schools that shall justly be styled national, and that our children shall no longer be compelled to take their mental food, as it were, at the second table of an elder relative?

Indeed these authorised text books appear to have been compiled for no other country than Ireland, since that island is generally mentioned as "this country," and its inhabitants are defined pronominally as "We." Canada is invariably treated as a foreign, a wild and uncultivated country; as being barren, covered with dreadful forests (some books have "frosts") and hideous marshes, at once offensive to the senses and injurious to the human constitution (vid IV Book, page 99). When comparisons between countries are drawn, it is frequently done at the expense and to the injury of Canada, as if particular care had been taken by the compilers to exhibit hostility to Canada and to Canadian institutions.

In Book III, page 38, Greenland, Kamschatka, Holland and Canada are represented as countries in which the mode of conveying travellers is by sledges drawn by dogs, and as a matter of curiosity it is mentioned, that even in Ireland we "sometimes meet with this practice." In Book IV, page 134, the pupil is informed that the principal productions of Canada are grain, timber and tobacco, and that among the animals are the beaver, otter and martin, &c. At page 241, the pupil is led to believe that America is a wild country which has no government, that it is inhabited by tribes of wild indians, that no taxes are paid there, and that people who do not desire to pay taxes should go to America. At page 248, assurance is given that in America land can be obtained for nothing, that the inhabitants are so few that any one may have as much land as he chooses to clear. At