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The Bestowal of Private Libraries.



It has been stated that the history of almost all modern nations indicates that the first one hundred years of existence is given up, mainly to the accumulation of wealth of the material sort. After this period, a leisure class having been created, a taste for art and literature usually develops, begetting men and women of culture and refinement, who in turn have a refining and elevating influence upon the other members of the community in which they live.

Co-existent with the spread of knowledge, there is the accumulation of that vehicle of knowledge, the printed book, in all its various forms. From the Bible and the almanac, which comprise the private collection of many a farmhouse, to the well-selected library of two or three thousand volumes, is a long cry, but the growth of libraries apparently holds its own with the advancement of education the world over.

In the Maritime Provinces of Canada there are, proportionately to the population, probably but few private libraries of any note, due to several causes, partly to the newness of the country, partly to the lack of wealth among the individuals, partly to the lack of that appreciation of a collection of good books which