

The Dominion Review.

A CANADIAN MONTHLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS AND LITERATURE.

TO THE PUBLIC.

The want of a first-class Canadian Weekly Journal devoted to Politics and Literature has long been felt. Without in any way reflecting on the present state of the Press in Canada, no one can deny that there is scope enough for a weekly journal aiming to combine the highest literary excellence with a broad, comprehensive, independent discussion of political and literary questions.

The DOMINION REVIEW is an attempt partially to meet this want. It is modelled after a high standard, which its promoters will spare no pains to realize. It thus confidently appeals to the intelligence and patriotic sentiment of the country for support.

For good or evil the influence of the Press is now universally admitted. The modern journal is no longer merely a medium for transmitting news. It is the chief organ through which public opinion finds expression; it is also one of the most powerful factors in its formation. The responsibility and importance, therefore, attaching to the educational function of the Press cannot be over-estimated. It helps to form and control the action of public opinion—the supreme motive power in modern life. The aim of this REVIEW is, therefore, critical and educative: to become a factor in the formation of a sound, healthy, public opinion and sentiment on all the great questions of the day.

It is thus the organ of no clique or party. Party government is a necessity, and with it, newspapers devoted to the interests of the party represented by them. But, however valuable in itself, discussion on such lines is not the highest: it is too narrow and one-sided; it does not look before and after. There is, therefore, ample room for a journal not identified with any party.

But "no party" has practically often been equivalent to "no principles," its advocates not seldom being mere trimmers who shift their sails to every passing breeze. Having no ideas to impress upon the minds of their contemporaries, they pander to prejudice, self-interest, and religious bigotry alike, if personal and immediate ends are only served. The DOMINION REVIEW, however, will be the advocate and representative of well-defined principles. Civil and religious freedom in the highest sense, just and equal laws for all, the interests of the whole community as opposed to those of any privileged class, the right and duty of the State to regulate and control its own affairs, absolute toleration in matters of opinion, are among the fundamental

principles it will seek to vindicate in every variety of circumstance. Its mottoes are the watchwords and marching symbols which the 19th century has made its own.

In Canada the pulses of a national life are beginning to be felt. A national consciousness is growing. Canada is beginning to realize that whether as an organic member of the British Empire, or of the Republic of America, or alone, it must work out a destiny for itself. In some way its national life must find expression, and be embodied in political forms. The range of political ideas and the sphere of political action are rapidly extending. Statesmen are called upon to deal with large and complicated questions of state policy. To a great extent they have now the shaping of the future in their hands. Will the foundations of future greatness be laid, and a starting point made from which progress and further development may proceed? Or shall the action of the present have reference to it alone, and, for the sake of immediate ends, difficulties and future troubles be stored up? On all such questions, whether social, economical, educational, partaking of a national or international character, it is important that clear and comprehensive ideas should prevail. These it will be the aim of this REVIEW to develop and maintain. It will always endeavour to apply to the particular circumstances of Canada those great principles which a long and wide experience has proved to be conducive to the prosperity and happiness of the people as a whole.

Political in the best sense of the term, this journal will not, however, be exclusively occupied with politics. Literary criticism will receive a prominent place. Recognizing the supreme importance of a culture of ideas, and a high literary taste and standard, as counteracting forces to the demoralizing influences of a material civilization, the DOMINION REVIEW will constantly endeavour to discharge the function of true literary criticism. A selection will be made of the more important works in the various branches of literary effort, as they appear from time to time. A critical account of these will be presented, and the public regularly put in possession of the best that is known and thought throughout the world.

Aims such as these are at least worth striving after. In the long run they must be realized; for here too, past failures become stepping stones to ultimate success. Whether, therefore, destined to succeed or fail, in the meantime no further apology is necessary for an effort to establish an organ through which the best thought of the country may find expression.

The Editors of

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