

their friends, that they lent their aid to their ruder compatriots in acts of retaliation which they must have regretted afterwards.

"Birds of a feather flock together," and when this province was settled, the rough, ignorant and half-savage characters naturally formed settlements of their own, and their descendants still keep together to some extent, their neighborhoods always being some degrees lower in material prosperity, morals and education, than other sections. But in justice to them let it be said that they are much in advance of the rude, uncultivated classes described in the American publications as occupying sections of the United States. One of these communities may have inspired the school teacher before referred to.

Notwithstanding all these things, it is asserted that our loyalists were the curse of Canada. How did they curse it? Having carved out in the wilderness homes for their families, they next set about making roads, building schools, mills, factories, ships, and churches. They brought with them their love of freedom and of representative institutions. In the year 1792, just one hundred years ago, and only nine years after the revolutionary war, when the population of this Province was probably not more than 30,000, they elected a legislature. This body held its first session in the Town of Niagara, commencing Sept. 17th, 1792. One of their first acts was to provide for the abolition of slavery in the Province of Upper Canada. This was nearly forty years in advance of the British Parliament, and seventy years before the great republic reached that degree of freedom. Yet many of these men were slave-owners, some of them from the South. It would take long to tell of the distinguished men the loyalists have given the country. But they have been and are among all classes and in every employment. Legislators, judges, clergymen, farmers, physicians, merchants, manufacturers and mechanics, they are everywhere among you. Dilapidated buildings and miserable fences, did you say? Would that I could take you for a trip through this Province from end to end and show you the thousands of comfortable homes with well tilled, well-stocked and well fenced farms owned and occupied by the descendants of the U. E. L.

After these people had so improved the country that emigrants from Europe could settle with a tithe of the hardships and privations they had endured, these new-comers and their children say: "These men retarded Canada in every respect." Shall such things be taught in our schools? Or, shall we not rather insist that our schools be taught by men and women so versed in the history of our land that they shall recognize and teach the fact that these people laid broad and deep the foundations for the comforts, the educational advantages and the civil and religious liberty we enjoy to a degree unsurpassed in any land. Let us also encourage a truly Canadian literature