

SALUTATION

THE EDITOR

THE first appearance of *The Dalhousie Review* calls for some explanation of the character which this new magazine is intended to bear and of the purpose which it is designed to serve.

In the older countries a place of assured and acknowledged value has long been held by the journal of criticism. Its use has indeed become so universal as to arouse the complaint that the reading of very many is now limited to "Reviews." But, although the monthlies and quarterlies can never become an adequate substitute for books, they fulfil a most important function for those whose time for reading is very limited. It is by the free discussion of contemporary problems that knowledge regarding them is most widely diffused, and for this the magazine provides a medium. It supplies a guide to the most significant literature, by which interest is turned in the right direction, and the ever increasing mass of books issuing from the press is sifted by critics for those who have little leisure to sift for themselves. A channel of expression is opened for anyone who has an opportune comment to make upon the affairs of the day. Insight into the higher realms of enquiry has thus been vigorously awakened and popularised. As Lord Morley has so admirably put it, stimulus is imparted to two precious qualities, breadth of interest and balance of judgment.

Such objects are of at least as great importance in the newer countries as in the older. It may, indeed, be urged with considerable force that where fresh materials for history are being more rapidly produced, where tradition is less firmly consolidated, and where the hitherto untried experiment is being more frequently ventured, there is special need for a literary vehicle of this kind. Our historians, our teachers, our scientists, our men of affairs can thus speak to a wide audience upon the things of supreme consequence.

The service we seek to render is a service to no restricted class, but to the people as a whole. Our project is one of university extension. We do not aim at adding to the list of technical learned journals, through which experts may exchange views on subjects quite foreign and in language quite unintelligible to the general reader. Nor, on the other hand, do we mean to produce yet another magazine of mere literary entertainment, in which questions which demand serious thinking are avoided, and whose attractiveness depends upon vivid but superficial chatting about the transient occurrences of the hour. That there is a real place for these two

types of writing is unquestioned, but this place seems to have been long since sufficiently filled. What we have in mind is the need of that public, concerned about the things of the intellect and the spirit, which desires to be addressed on problems of general import and in a style that can be generally understood.

In the faith that such a public exists in these Maritime Provinces, and that support will be given to the educational enterprise which has here been outlined, *The Dalhousie Review* is now launched. Its appeal indeed is by no means restricted to these provinces, for its pages will be open to contributors from every quarter who have a real message for the time. But the promoters of this magazine feel convinced that catholicity of interest is quite compatible with preserving that local point of view from which public issues must in the first instance be considered. Literature, science, art, are the common heritage of all, and our study in these fields must be subject to no local limitation, though we shall naturally take special note of what our own workers may from time to time have achieved. But the social problems which grow each day more urgent arise everywhere out of the conditions of the place, and though often fundamentally alike they differ in a hundred details that call for separate treatment. Believing, too, that these problems can be clearly understood and effectively discussed only by those who have traced them back to their roots in the past, we shall always welcome papers that embody historical investigation into our country's records. Thus the outlook of the Review is primarily Canadian, and we in the Maritime Provinces must begin at home, for success comes to those who take first the task that lies nearest to them. In this sense we avow a nationalism that is not prejudice and a provincialism that is not narrowness.

To those who may enquire why our project is associated in a special degree with Dalhousie University we answer that this by no means excludes the idea of cordial partnership with workers elsewhere who would help in furthering the same high purpose. Sympathetic co-operation of other colleges is heartily invited. Our basis of union with them is just a common belief in this sort of educational effort, and those who share this belief however they may be otherwise divided are always in spirit near to one another. But someone must accept the responsibility of beginning, and at the risk of being thought to have taken up a task beyond our powers we have decided to make this literary experiment. Its fate depends upon the readiness with which those who approve our venture will show their approval by actively furthering the circulation of *The Dalhousie Review*.