NEW BOOKS

THE REDEMPTION OF DEMOCRACY: The Coming Atlantic Empire. By Hermann Rauschning. Alliance Book Corporation. New York. 1941.

This is an arresting and a memorable book, by one who has indeed a right to be heard. Dr. Rauschning was President of the Danzig Free State, and a vigorous supporter of National Socialism at a time when the original 25 Points of its creed made that movement appear so commendable to liberal thinkers in many countries. But he abandoned the Hitler régime when he realized how monstrous was the project on which its founder was bent. Since then, resident at first in England, now in the United States, he has published volume after volume in exposure of the Nazi design which he knows so well. He is among the most effective, because he is among the best informed, of all the exiles now helping us to understand the tyranny in which they refused to participate. And he has the attraction of not merely a

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correct and lucid but a charming English prose style.

His latest book, here under review, is the one by which I have been most impressed. Dr Rauschning is engaged on the same high task as Dr. Otto Strasser, but it is plain to their readers that they differ in temperament, and to some degree in political conviction. It is perhaps something like the contrast of a Lloyd George with a Stanley Baldwin. Dr. Strasser is a radical reformer, for whom the axe has to be laid to the root of many a social tree of vast trunk and made all the firmer by the passage of the years. Dr. Rauschning dislikes, obviously, using an axe upon the root of an ancient and majestic growth, and he is alarmed—as Stanley Baldwin was—by the risk of destroying so much that is good along with the evil. If he had been an Englishman, he would have shone in the best circles of the Carlton Club, among the most humane of English Conservatives, eager—as his countryman Dibelius would put it—for "that eternal patchwork which is the sign-manual of reform in England". Dr. Rauschning, I suspect, would reply that patching a garment made of the best cloth is preferable to risking a new garment that is shoddy: patched woollen stuff should be taken rather than the substitute whose basis is brown paper or wood! Only an intense humanitarianism could have driven this German conservative to radical revolt: it would have been so much more to his taste to continue administering Danzig. But he had to draw the line somewhere, and he drew it at what Nazism had come to mean. His other brochure, My Conversations with Hitler, will show the curious how and why this resolve was taken.

But the present book, Redemption of Democracy, as its name indicates, is a manifesto of the author's constructive mood, and his sub-title, The Coming Atlantic Empire, foreshadows his plan for a British-American alliance, continuing in peace when it has been victorious in war, to reconstruct the world. Those perils of democracy, at least of the democratic constitution set up in such haste at Weimar,

And so we are on our way. We are sailing aboard the new Mayflower, still in the steerage, with all the strange and yet familiar people in the same suspense and the same mortal peril, crowded together night after night, and threatened even by day. We are sailing out of this Age—not toward a new continent, but into a new world Age. The fading ripples and swirls about our vessel. Shall we come safe into port? Shall we be wrecked? And what have we aboard? Not simply the ideas of a new liberty and justice; have our Pilgrim Fathers brought along the ageless documents of a higher-humanity, or have we forgotten them?

Let us regain the spirit of the old heroes—not to let our souls seek vanished ages and distant lands, but to lay the foundation without which any community will crash down before it is really built. How we can feel a current sweeping us along! As the bombs shake our emergency roof like the storm shaking the ship, we know we shall never see again the old shore we have left behind us; it fades, and a new one beckons.

H. L. S.

Canada in War and Peace, ed. by Chester Martin. Oxford University Press 1941. pp. 244.

This is a notable collection of eight lectures on trends in Canada since 1914, by members of the staff of the University of Toronto. Mr. Creighton points to the stresses and strains which developed from the federal system. He concludes with a rather laudatory account of the Sirois Report, which he finds in harmony with the guiding principles of the settlement of 1867. Mr. Innis sees the dominant economic trend of the period as an attempt to direct and control our economic life, but an attempt far from successful, partly because of the intractibility of the subject matter, partly because of our vulnerability to external conditions over which we have no control. One suspects Mr. Innis doesn't like economic controls. Mr. Bladen concludes that the prospects for Canadian prosperity in an era of population decline-(which he thinks imminent in Europe) are "gloomy". Mr. Underhill, after a review of politics and economic development during the first World War, suggests that the verdict of the future historian may be "With every world war, Canada is made into a nation over again". Mr. Glazebrook's essay is concerned largely with Canada's external policy in the immediate post-war years. He draws an interestingparallel between North American policy of "no commitments in advance" (or, in American terms, "no entangling alliances") and the British policy during the nineteenth century of "splendid isolation". Mr. Dawson, after a discriminating analysis of the problem of reconciling Dominion and Imperial interests in the conduct of the first World War, concludes that the issue needs to be settled once again in the present World War. Mr. Brady's essay is a comparative study of the working of democracy in the British Dominions. He believes that Dominion self government was a by-product of the Pax Brittanica of the nineteenth century, and he suggests that the post-war settlement will inevitably have a bearing on the continuation of democracy in the overseas Dominions. Mr. Chester Martin contributes an Introduction and a general essay on "Trends in Canadian Nationhood" which links together the other studies and throws them into historical perspective.

The volume will make good reading for laymen or specialists, and it is a fine example of the scholar's rôle as a public lecturer—the exposition of the significant in measured terms yet literary style. But it is not a book for those who prefer historical romance to histor-

ical facts.

R. A. MACKAY

The Military Problems of Canada. By C. P. Stacy. Ryerson Press, Toronto. pp. 184.

Mr. Stacy has long been known as a student of Canadian defence policy an dproblems. This volume, published in September, 1940, consists of a survey of Canadian defence policy from Confederation to 1939, a chapter on defence activities during the first year of war, and a chapter on geography and Canadian security. Mr. Stacy concludes that Canada is still relatively immune from invasion, though not from raids. As befits a book designed to inform readers on contemporary problems, considerable space is devoted to the reorganization of defence in the immediate pre-war years. In the light of war-time expenditures these preparations seem puny, but Mr. Stacy concludes that Canada was much better prepared in 1939 than in 1914, and that there was consequently much less chaos and improvisation on the outbreak of war. While the historical section is not a definitive study, it supersedes all previous sketches and will be useful for laymen and students alike. It is thoroughly readable. Lengthy footnotes contain very useful bibliographical references. Placed at the end of the volume. they will not alarm the general reader though the location may annoy professors.

R. A. MACKAY

Daniel H. Gordon. His Life, by Wilhelmina Gordon. Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1941.

Our thanks are due to Miss Gordon for this informing and attractive biography. It is not only a fitting tribute to a beloved father, but it is also a valuable contribution to the history of religious and edu-

cational life during the latter half of last century and the earlier decades of the present one. Few people have had a wider acquaintance with the various phases of Canadian life than had Principal Gordon, and fewer still have looked upon these matters with a more generous and judicious mind. He was born in Pictou, and had his early education under the guidance of strong Scotch influences; so it was only natural that he should go to the Old Country for his further studies. In Glasgow University he was confirmed in his high ideals of exacting scholarship combined with religious conviction, and these ideals remained with him throughout his long public career. He continued there the Scottish tradition of learning allied with spiritual forces.

Dr. Gordon's ministries included Ottawa, Winnipeg and Halifax, and in all of these places he formed friendships with leaders of religious and public life, and gained the lasting affection of many of the members of his congregations. But probably the most enduring of Dr. Gordon's labours will be found in the seventeen years from 1902 to 1919, in which he guided the passage of Queen's from its status as a small church college of 800 students into its present position as a university, with an enrolment of 2000. The story of this transition is here carefully told by one thoroughly acquainted with the course of events, and the narrative shows how exacting this task was, involving great anxiety and persistent opposition. However, this was faced with unceasing patience and wise direction, and the result is such as to win for Dr. Gordon a lasting place in the story of Canadian higher education.

The book shows how zealously Miss Gordon has searched for and examined the varied sources for her historical background. She writes with ease and fine taste, and she has succeeded in conveying a clear picture of the unfailing courtesy, high principle and distinguished bearing with which his many friends will always associate the memory

of the late Principal of Queen's.

J. W. FALCONER

Phantom Pirates. By Claire Harris MacIntosh. Halifax, The Imperial Publishing Company, Limited, 1941.

Readers of the Dalhousie Review are familiar with Mrs. MacIntosh's delightful Attune with Spring in Acadie, which was published some years ago. In the present slim chapbook of forty-eight pages, she has brought together some of her poems written since then. As one would expect, the poems are always musical; indeed, a number have been set to music. The language is concrete. Mrs. MacIntosh is at her best when she is dealing with Nova Scotian subjects that allow her imagination to brood on our vivid maritime; an example is the poem from which the volume takes its name. A word should be said about the exquisite cover of blue-pebbled paper, on which are a black pirate ship and silver gulls overhead.

BLISS CARMAN, BIBLIOGRAPHY, LETTERS, FUGITIVE VERSES AND OTHER DATA. By William Inglis Morse. Hawthorne House (Windham, Conn.), 1941. Pp. 86. \$7.00

For years Dr. William Inglis Morse has been an eager student of Carman and an ardent collector of Carman items. This slim volume represents the fruits of the long search. One might wish that Dr. Morse had made a detailed study of Carman's life and works, for which he is eminently fitted, but we must in this case be grateful for crumbs, and we can console ourselves that these are very fine crumbs indeed. First, we have a short essay on Carman's life, giving us many new and interesting facts. Then there is a check list of Carman items in the William Inglis Morse Collection; this should prove invaluable to librarians and other collectors, for all the rarer items are here described. Finally we have a number of letters, printed from the originals in the Morse Collection, and some fugitive verses. The book will perhaps be included among the fifty finest examples of book making in 1941: type and paper are excellent, illustrations are beautifully clear, but the palm must go to the binding, exquisitely colored floral boards with back of dark green. A truly beautiful and valuable volume!

B. M.

BAROMETER RISING. A Novel of Halifax in War Time. By Hugh MacLennan. Duell, Sloan and Pearce. New York. 1941.

This novel has had a striking and a well deserved success. It has, of course, very special interest for Halifax readers, whose vivid memory of the great explosion in December 1917 (when the author, though living there, was but ten years old) can so well corroborate much in its record. Mr. MacLennan has a dramatic sense, and his descriptions hold the reader throughout. But the interest is far from being merely local. Here is a picture of the events of just eight days in one Canadian city, and yet it might well rivet the attention of readers far away who know nothing of Halifax topographic detail, because it presents so skilfully character and persons and the interplay of motive that are as old and as far-extending as human nature. In a word, the story lives because the figures are real men and women, in very different circumstances of fortune, of joy and sorrow, of intrigue and heroism and wickedness.

We have reason to hope for much more from the pen of one who has given us this as his first novel. I think it appropriate to add that Mr. MacLennan might consider the reasons from a literary, though not perhaps a commercial, point of view for indicating certain disagreeable situations in outline rather than requiring his reader to follow the details. So excellent a Latinist will remember the advice of Horace to writers of plays, that the more gruesome parts of the plot should be

executed behind the stage and disclosed only by report. Ne pueros coram populo Medea trucidet.

And, by the way, has anyone discovered how the book got its title? I confess myself altogether in the dark as to why it was called Barometer Rising, and the attempts I have heard at explaining this, by those who thought they knew until they tried to put it into words, have made me feel it is not just my personal dullness of perception. Perhaps here is part of the artist's trick of suspense.

H. L. S.

The Crisis of 1830-1842 in Canadian-American Relations. By Albert B. Corey. New Haven and Toronto, 1941. Pp. xi, 203.

This volume covers less than a decade in Canadian history, and of that history chiefly the international aspects. Its purpose is to set in perspective the effects of the Canadian rebellions of 1837 and 1838 upon British-American and Canadian-American relations, to which end it concerns itself less than the conventional histories with causes and results of the rebellions in relation to the old politico-economic colonial system, and devotes most of its attention to the attitudes of the people south of the border towards Great Britain and Canada, before, during and after the rebellions, and to the problems created for the governments of both Great Britain and the United States by the activities of American sympathizers along that border.

As might be expected, such a detailed study has brought out many facts not hitherto known to the general student, but it has also revealed how slender was the thread on which the oft-boasted hundred years of peace was suspended in that period. At the beginning of the period, Americans were not keenly interested in Canada or well-informed as to its government. Though they felt vaguely that it would ultimately seek union with the United States, and welcomed the thought of annexation, they were opposed to the idea of government intervention in Canadian affairs. Prior to 1835 they believed that Canadians were loyal to the British connection and seeking redress of normal grievances; but two years later, when the London Times advocated coercion of the Canadians, they began to denounce Great Britain and professed to see in the Canadian Rebellion an analogy with the American Revolution.

At that time public meetings were held on the border to express sympathy with the Canadians; but it was not until the destruction of the *Caroline*, an American steamer which was carrying supplies to the rebels, on December 29, 1837, that border opinion was aroused to active intervention on their behalf. Then followed open recruiting along the border for the invasion of Canada and the secret activities of the Hunters Lodges to the same end, all of which embarrassed the governments of both Great Britain and the United States and would

undoubtedly have led to war had these governments not had mutual confidence in their integrity. Without this confidence, Great Britain would not have been satisfied with the inadequate efforts of the American government to check the activities of their border citizens, and the United States could not have tolerated Great Britain's temporary violation of the Rush-Bagot agreement for disarmament on the Great Lakes.

For four years the border was in ferment, and it did not become normal until Durham's Report had been implemented and the Webster-Ashburton Treaty concluded. Incidentally, Professor Corey shows that this treaty was more far-reaching in its aims and achievements than it has generally been considered, and that, besides settling disputes of long standing, some of its compromises were the direct outcome of the experience of both countries during the recent rebellion. Moreover, from this crisis the Americans learned "that Canada intended to retain its British connection," and "to pursue an existence independent of the United States." Henceforth it was clear that there were to be two democratic nations on this continent side by side, and that it was to their mutual advantage to settle their differences by friendly negotiation rather than war.

D. C. H.

Storm. By George Stewart. Macmillans in Canada. Pp. 349. \$3.00.

Mr. Stewart is breaking interesting and unusual ground in this novel. A junior meteorologist in California notices a new storm brewing off the coast of Japan; we trace the life of the storm until on the twelfth day it has died on the American continent. Subsidiary storms all over North America play their part in this storm's life history. The real hero is the storm, or perhaps we should say, the atmosphere as a whole. We have a truly cosmic background for our action. Long ago in Robinson Crusoe Defoe showed man pitted against a neutral universe in his struggle for existence; Mr. Stewart show us that man, though he prides himself on being a land animal, is really an air animal, and that man is constantly struggling against the forces of the atmosphere. We do not follow the fortunes of a few men connectedly through the novel; rather Mr. Stewart has adopted the discontinuous method of flashes of the lives of many people who are affected day by day by the storm-a method first made popular by Mr. Dos Passos in Manhattan Transfer and U.S. A.

When a novel has been taken up by one of the book clubs, a reviewer has an invidious task: how can a panel of the leading critics of the country possibly be guilty of the slightest error of judgment? Storm should be read by everyone interested in the scope and the technique of the novel. The style, too, is beautiful; Mr. Stewart has an unerring sense of English sounds and prose rhythms. Yet for one reader at least the novel is a glorious failure. Like Melville with his cetology in Moby Dick, Mr. Stewart has had to face the problem of handling masses of meteorology. Sometimes he has subdued this

material to his artistic purposes, and we feel a high imagination at work; at other times, and usually in the latter part of the book, the meteorology refuses to be moulded into artistic shape, and we feel we have suddenly found a few pages of a text book on climatology bound into a novel by mistake. Then, too, the present reader, probably from reading and listening to daily flashes of war news, begins to long for a more connected story; if life is not continuous, at least we like literature to give us the illusion of continuity. Moreover, one finds it difficult to keep J. M., L. D., and C. S. O. apart as characters. In the opening sections of the various chapters, Mr. Stewart let his cosmic and historical imagination play; the opening of Chapter II is a masterpiece of such essay writing, but some of the later ones seem almost mechanical in their occurrence. The author has rare ability in showing how seemingly inconsequential incidents, like the growth of a sapling years before the white man came to the shores of California, can influence the life of a person to-day. One such incident, instead of being impressive, is merely ridiculous because of the epic manner of the writing; I refer to the death of Blue Boy, the boar. Seemingly Mr. Stewart meant the last chapter to have the quieting effect of the last chorus of a Greek tragedy; he is only partially successful in the attempt, such trite passages as the Chief's moralizing on life defeating him in his aim. Mr. Stewart has attempted a very difficult task; if he has not succeeded wholly in creating a work of art, we should remember that a work like this, even in its imperfection, is much more rewarding than a dozen novels neatly turned out on a machine-made pattern.

THE ATHENAEUM: A MIRROR OF VICTORIAN CULTURE. By
Leslie A. Marchand. Univ. of North Carolina Press.
Pp. 411. \$3.50.

In recent years have appeared several studies of leading English journals of the 19th century; the present volume belongs to this class. • Dr. Marchand sketches the history of the Athenaeum in brief from its founding in 1828 to its absorption in the Nation in 1921. Then follow chapters on "The Fight Against Puffery," the attempt of the Athenaeum to free reviewing from the influence of publishers and authors; "The Athenaeum Circle under Dilke", which is devoted to the various contributors to the journal; and "Criticism of Contemporaries", a very valuable chapter for students of Victorian literature. From the beginning the Athenaeum was intended to be a journal of high seriousness, acquainting the English reading public with foreign literature, new work in science, and general progress; only toward the end of the century did it show interest in politics and economics. On the whole, it stood aside from party politics. Dr. Marchand does not attempt a final appraisal of the Victorian Age; that task must wait until all the periodicals and journals of the period have been similarly studied. Then we should have, if the right scholar takes up the work, a very valuable study, to which this volume should contribute much.

Some Great Men of Queen's. Edited by R. C. Wallace, Principal of Queen's University. The Ryerson Press. 1941.

This is an interesting collection of papers, which the Queen's Centenary called forth. Five essays, each on some outstanding figure—in philosophy, in mathematics, in English literature, in oriental studies, in economics—that adorned the university within the memory of men still active in those fields, constitute no mere memoir of that particular institution. They include much criticism suggestive to the academic world of teaching and research outside. The papers are all eminently readable, but I confine myself here to comment on

the one in my own province.

It was obviously a labor of love for Professor MacEachran to produce his estimate of the philosopher who had made the name of Queen's so notable wherever the exposition or criticism of Kant and Hegel was seriously followed. The late John Watson would, I am sure, have felt overwhelmed by a tribute such as this, typical of what many feel, though few of his former pupils could present it with the same amplitude of knowledge and felicity of expression. Here is indeed all that a teacher, after a long life of philosophical effort, could possibly desire. It declares Watson to have achieved, and convincingly shows how he achieved, just what he set out to do. Like another Erasmus "Christianizing the Renaissance," he would make the voice of philosophy a harmonizing, clarifying influence for those who came under his own educative direction, amid the strident discords of science and theology in his time. As a good Hegelian, he would rationalize faith and spiritualize knowledge for his pupils and his readers. A tremendous undertaking! Watson's books have long told us all how he conceived it, and we have our varying judgments as to the measure in which he accomplished it as a writer. Here is the enthusiastic gratitude of one who came under his unforgettable spell in the lecture room and in the study. To make clear what he felt that pupils owed to Watson, Professor MacEachran has set forth in a few pages of his own lucid, incisive exposition some aspects of the philosophical issue which his teacher made his own special business. It may be commended to those who seek the succinctness on such a subject for which Cousin entreated Hegel in vain.

The writer of this tribute, who himself carries the same torch in the University of Alberta, does not include—as might not indeed have been suitable in a centenary estimate such as this—much that one knows to be in his mind about the water that has flowed under philosophical bridges since Watson was in his prime. Rashdall put it somewhat severely when he said that the subject "has not stood still since the days when Professor Watson was a student in Glasgow." For some of us Henri Bergson in France, for others G. E. Moore in England, has rudely shaken much of the old Hegelian edifice. But that does not affect one's judgment that Watson did a marvellous work for his own period. If some of the building which he left has to be retrimmed, and some of the parts he thought it needful to keep just as they were have to be pulled down that the rest may be

preserved, this in no way detracts from the credit of the master-builder so much of whose work is enduring. All such structures are liable to later repair and even demolition operations of the kind, and the best of architects not only expect it but hope for it. A master-builder of philosophy in Canada John Watson undoubtedly was, and this memoir is an admirable account of what he did. The omissions are well justified by Professor MacEachran's memory of the words of Plato: "I cannot fall upon my father Parmenides."

H. L. S.

ARTHUR STRINGER: SON OF THE NORTH. By Victor Lauriston. Ryerson Press. Pp. 173. \$1.75.

This, the latest volume in The Makers of Canadian Literature Series, follows the usual plan of that series: Life, Anthology, Appreciation, and Bibliography. Mr. Lauriston, who comes from the same part of Ontario as Mr. Stringer, can write adequately of the early years of his subject. The life is interestingly told, and the reader comes from it with a complimentary impression of Mr. Stringer's personality. Mr. Lauriston had a very difficult task in compiling the anthology: besides the poems and verses, there was a huge mass of fiction to be drawn upon. How can a novel be represented satisfactorily in a page or two? At most we can judge of the author's style. One excellent short story

was wisely included. The bibliography should be useful.

Perhaps rightly in this series, the third main section is entitled "Appreciation", not "Criticism". Mr. Lauriston throws about toofreely and easily not merely superlatives, but comparisons with all the greatest names in English literature. This is especially true when he is discussing Mr. Stringer's poetry. It is true that Mr. Stringer's earlier poetry, though frequently derivative, held much promise: the young poet had an eye for colour, an ear for words, and a surprising command of metres, especially of blank verse; what this early verse needed was pruning, for sensuousness often ran away with sense. Unfortunately the promising poet caught the Celtic virus; for the present reviewer, though not for Mr. Lauriston, from that moment Mr. Stringer descended from romantic poetry to mere sentimental verse. The spelling of the "Irish poems" deceives no one—Mr. Lauriston to the contrary. Placed beside the work of James Stephens, George Russell, or Yeats, these effusions are pathetically false. The sooner Canadian critics or "appreciators" admit that a Canadian writer can have his failures, the sooner will they do Canadian literature real service. All this is not to say that Mr. Lauriston's volume is not worth reading: the first two sections fill a real need.

B. M.

God's Good Tide. By Charlotte Whitton. The Ryerson Press, Toronto. 1941.

This is a beautiful imaginative piece, in which the story of King-Canute bidding the waters recede from his chair has been used by

Miss Whitton to point a moral for the present. A little girl, reading in her lesson book the lines

"You see," quoth he, "how God's good tide Doth little reck man's power and pride,"

asks her grandmother what it all means, and the old lady, "fresh-faced though white-haired," makes the question an opportunity to tell of the various invaders of England, beginning with the Danes. She explains how they never conquered England, though some of them conquered the English; they were rather assimilated, for "the soul of England always conquered them, as it did Canute." And it will always be so.

The little story has a second scene, when in 1918 the child of the first scene has grown up, and at her grandmother's bedside, when the old lady is in her last hours, hears the same refrain, that "God's good tide" will serve England against the invader again. Miss Whitton, naturally, has a paragraph of epilogue, to show how the moral still

stands in 1941.

It is exquisitely worked out, a fit companion to the song *There'll Always be an England* that has so deep a thrill for the English overseas in many a land now.

H. L. S.

Canada and the Orient. A study in International Relations. By Charles J. Woodsworth. Toronto. The Macmillan Co. of Canada, Ltd. 1941.

This is a book which can be enthusiastically recommended to those who want to understand the Anglo-Japanese and American-Japanese conflict of the present hour. Mr. Woodsworth is a Canadian journalist who has spent much time in Europe, and has given special study to Far-Eastern issues. I know no other equally succinct and suggestive presentation of the manner in which Canada has become interested in and involved in both Japanese and Chinese problems. The historical sequence is clearly traced, and the present situation is thus made far more easily intelligible to the general reader. It is a book worthy of more extended notice, but though it reached me late for the purpose, I feel it is important to bring to public attention at once so serviceable a guide to questions of the moment.

H. L. S.