

NEW BOOKS

BRITISH COLONIAL POLICY IN THE AGE OF PEEL AND RUSSELL.
By W. P. Morrell. Oxford, 1930. pp. ix-554.

During the forties of the nineteenth century the British Empire experienced a re-incarnation. The old empire, the foundations of which were commercial monopoly and imperial control, ceased to exist as respects settlement colonies, and a new empire, founded on self-government and free trade, arose from the old. The period has been a favourite hunting-ground for the historian, and the published literature has already assumed formidable proportions. Students have long felt the need of a synthesis, and their prayers have now been answered. Mr. Morrell's *British Colonial Policy in the Age of Peel and Russell*, which covers the years 1840 to 1852, surveys the whole field of colonial policy, exclusive of Indian policy, during the critical period of the remaking of the empire.

Before the advent of Peel to office in 1840, there had been a "stirring in the mulberry tops" of colonial policy. The practice of imperial control of administration in the colonies had received a rude shock by the Canadian rebellion, and the theory of control by Durham's Report and Howe's famous open letters to Russell. The monopolistic feature of the old colonial system had already been breached by Huskisson's preferential tariffs. The humanitarians had become an important influence in colonial policy through the abolition of slavery, a step which had revolutionized economic conditions in the sugar colonies. And Gibbon Wakefield's schemes of systematic colonization, as opposed to haphazard emigration, had already been partially tried in New Zealand, where they had been found not altogether wanting.

In so far as the new Ministry had a colonial policy, it was that of Peel rather than of Stanley, the Colonial Secretary, who, though a "Rupert of debate," cared little for administration and had few constructive ideas. As Bagehot says of Peel, "He was never in advance of his time;" he was converted to ideas and measures "at the conversion of the average man." In no field of politics is this observation more pertinent than in colonial affairs. England, though less dogmatic in her support of old ideas and methods of colonial government, was not yet converted to the new, and England's mind was mirrored in the policy of the Government. Thinking of the empire largely as a financial liability, Peel never quite understood the colonial point of view, and hence contributed little directly to the solution of the problems of empire. In Canada, Metcalf's denial of complete responsible government was wholeheartedly supported by Peel and Stanley. In New Zealand and South Africa the Ministry halted between two opinions, whether to protect the native against white encroachment or to leave the settlers a free hand. The attempt to encourage colonization in Australia by control of land settlement was ineffective, and

brought demands from the colonists for self-government. And the sugar colonies, which had not yet solved their labour problem following the abolition of slavery, were brought to the verge of despair by reason of the admission of slave-grown sugar to English markets. The sole definite contribution consisted in the abolition of the Corn Laws. Clearly the commercial foundations on which empire was presumed to rest were no more.

In the revolution in commercial policy Peel and Stanley altered the basic conceptions of empire; it remained for their successors to rebuild the imperial structure on new foundations. The new Colonial Secretary, Lord Grey, was by temperament and conviction a reformer, and the colonial policy of Russell's administration was essentially his. His sympathetic relations with Elgin and his attitude to self-government in Canada are well known to students of Canadian history. Lord Grey has, however, been less of a popular idol to historians of other colonies. His policy of restricted land sales, and his support of the hoary system of transporting criminals, made his name a byword for imperial dictation in Australia, while his support of the native in South Africa made him almost as unpopular there. Nor was the Secretary more popular in New Zealand, where the policies of Sir George Grey, the Governor, of Europeanizing the native and of withholding responsible government, were being applied. As regards the sugar colonies, he was compelled to bear the brunt of the colonial demand for protection which, of course, was counter to the prevailing fiscal views of parliament. Nor were the efforts to solve the West Indian labour problem by immigration completely successful during Grey's régime. Time and new crops, not immigration or tariffs, were the real solvents of their economic ills. And Grey's refusal of responsible government to West Indian colonies did not add to his popularity.

Perhaps no Colonial Secretary since the American revolution has left office under a darker cloud than Grey. Haughty and dogmatic, he was a difficult colleague; intellectualist in his approach to politics, he sometimes underestimated the human factor, and particularly in the matter of frontier communities and natives; too doctrinaire for the colonists, he was too pragmatic, too lacking in faith in great ideas, for Wakefield and the colonial reformers. Yet, contends Mr. Morrell, history has in the main given her verdict for Grey rather than for his critics. The grant of responsible government to Canada did not destroy the empire, nor yet its refusal to the Indies. Greater attention to the trusteeship principle in land and native policy, and more thought for the future, might have saved Australia and South Africa alike from the serious problems which to-day confront them. Mr. Morrell, indeed, gives Grey a high place in the empire's Hall of Fame.

This careful study should do much to correct the views so commonly held in the Dominions, that self-government has been wrung from the unwilling hands of British politicians, and that the commonwealth of to-day is the work only of enlightened colonial statesmen. Britishers beyond seas now and in the past have all too often underestimated the difficulties latent in imperial government. Often too, they saw not beyond the forest fringes of their own settlements. Too close to irritating details of the problem, they failed to see it whole.

Mr. Morrell has set the problem in perspective, and more especially for historians and students of the empire in the Dominions.

This book should stand the test of time; it is comprehensive and painstaking, thoroughly scholarly, and judicial in tone. No student of the period can afford to neglect it. Attention should also be called here to the collection of documents on the period, edited by the author and Mr. K. N. Bell, (*Select Documents on British Colonial Policy 1830-1860*. Oxford, 1928), which should be kept at the reader's elbow. Incidentally, it may be said that the best review of the material covered by Mr. Morrell in this monograph is the brilliant introduction to the Documents. We shall place Mr. Morrell's book on our shelves beside the works of Osgoode, Beer, Egerton, and other lasting authorities on the history of the Empire.

ROBERT A. MACKAY

THE FUR TRADE IN CANADA. By Harold Innis. New Haven, Yale University Press. 1930.

There is no more interesting subject in Canadian history than the story of the fur trade. Back through the Hudson's Bay Company, through the old Northwest Company, through French explorers and voyageurs, we are carried finally to Champlain and Jacques Cartier. In the early days of the French régime the very existence of the colony depended on furs; and if in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the fur trade lost in relative importance, it never lost its interest or its romance.

When Europeans first came to America, the great search was for some article of commerce, some "staple" as it was called, which could be easily sold in the home market. It was only by producing some such commodity that the settlers could buy the European goods which were absolutely necessary if they were not to sink to a cultural level not far removed from that of the aborigines. It is this that explains the great importance in the early economy of America of sugar in the West Indies, of tobacco in the Southern States, of furs in the case of Canada. In exchange for the staple, the older civilization supplied the needs of the colony until it attained to some degree of economic independence.

To any person interested in the subject the present volume can be unhesitatingly recommended. Mr. Innis has collected an enormous amount of material on the subject, and every page shows patience, care and industry. At the same time it is no mere collection of facts. The facts are analyzed, and conclusions are drawn.

The book will, however, never be popular except with the historian or economist who may be drawn to the subject. While Mr. Innis may be well satisfied to leave the romantic side of his subject to the novelist, it would not injure the fur trade in any way if the facts of its history were presented with somewhat more ease and grace. The present work savours too much of a Ph. D. thesis.

G. E. WILSON

THE IDEA OF IMMORTALITY AND WESTERN CIVILIZATION. The Ingersoll Lecture, 1930. By Robert A. Falconer, K.C.M.G., President of the University of Toronto. Harvard University Press.

This book begins by defining belief in immortality as a conception which lies as a desire or hope in the heart of man, an intuitive apprehension which grows clearer and gets its persuasiveness by the process of pondering on it; and thus the meaning of it has been clarified through the process of history. In accordance with this, and appealing mainly to philosophy and poetry, the book proceeds to give a brief historical sketch of the place that the idea of immortality has occupied in western civilization. After some reference to Greek and Roman and Hebrew conceptions, it shows how, from the founding of the Christian Church up to the times of Thomas Aquinas and Dante, the Hereafter was central in men's thoughts. Dante especially rested its vindication on the supremacy of reason, and looked upon death as the gateway to a heavenly world where reason itself would be transcended in divine love.

With the dawn of the Renaissance, a change appeared. Men turned more from the life that is to be to the life that now is; and this new orientation was developed by the succeeding Aufklaerung period, when the thought of the indefinite progress and perfectibility of humanity, rather than the immortality of the individual, became the regulative factor.

In the nineteenth century this position was strengthened by the emergent doctrine of scientific evolution. Mankind did not require any transcendent sphere in which to realize its completeness. Further, the comprehension of the insignificance of this planet in the universe led average men to strip off remnants of the traditional form of Christian belief in the Hereafter. But if, in the decades before the war, belief in immortality was on the wane, this was due not simply to philosophic or scientific reasoning, but also to the material environment. Men lived in an extraordinarily self-confident civilization. Spirituality and reverence were lacking. Material success was the chief goal, and from this to sheer paganism was but a step.

As yet it is difficult to estimate the effect of the war on the belief in immortality. Grief and longing for their fallen has quickened it in some. With others, the collapse of civilization which the war evinced has driven them to the surrender of all idealism. Yet there is a brighter side to all this. The scientific conquest of nature still speaks of the grandeur of reason. In international affairs, the League of Nations is a sign of a new moral order. Further, the truthfulness and honesty of the modern scientific spirit is a contribution on the positive side, and the noble self-sacrifice brought out by the war is an indication that the human spirit is too great to end simply with physical death. In answer to the argument that "men are mortal, but ideas are immortal", it can be retorted that ideas are nothing apart from men. And the highest idea or ideal of all is that of love as set forth by the Christian Faith, in which is comprehended also that other great idea of God as the Father Who has redeemed men with an everlasting love, so that

nothing shall be able to separate them from that love. But whether definitely Christian or not, the hope of immortality is rooted in the experience of love, goodness and reason, such that the life which consists in their exercise must continue to be conscious of itself. That being so, questions of where that life after death will be spent are irrelevant.

If any criticism were offered on this book, it would be on the lines of a lack of proportion in its historical survey. While, comparatively speaking, much space is given to Vergil and Dante, there is no specific mention made either of Plato or of Kant. Yet it is to these above all, apart from the Christian Faith, that the western world is indebted for belief in immortality. Further, this book scarcely vindicates its claim to "clarify the idea of immortality"; it clarifies rather arguments upon which belief in immortality rests. Apart from defining immortality as involving self-consciousness, it adds nothing further to its content. At the same time, no one can thoughtfully read and ponder over what this booklet has to say without finding his belief in immortality greatly strengthened. Some books are to be measured and treasured not by the number of their pages, but by the light that they shed upon life. And this is one of them.

C. M. KERR.

POETRY AND PROSE. By Mary E. Fletcher. The Ryerson Press, Toronto. 1930.

To those who knew Mary Fletcher and recall her generosity of temper, her delicate sense of humour, and the rare charm that brightened her whole personality, this posthumous selection of her writings brings a keen sense of loss. A small book, it suffices to show how we have had with us, scarcely recognized, a woman of exceptional literary gifts. Only innate modesty, and an unusually high standard by which to test her own work, prevented her from publishing an amount of essays and verses which would have won for her a more general attention than she obtained; but she has chosen the better part, and in this little volume the affection of her sisters has given us a flawless memento of her talent. The prose sketches are finished in style, tender in sentiment, and instinct with a human sympathy that does not exclude a humorous outlook. But it is her verse which entitles her name to a place of honour among Canadian writers. Fewer than a dozen poems, yet among them are the lovely sonnet "Eilidh," "A Funeral Passing," and the noble lyric "In Love with Easeful Death" which Sir Andrew Macphail, no mean judge, selected for inclusion in his anthology, *The Book of Sorrow*. Best of all perhaps is the sonnet in memory of Professor Charles Macdonald, which for dignity of thought and purity of diction would not have been unworthy of one of the great masters of this form of poetic expression.

E. R.

LEIGH HUNT. A Biography By Edmund Blunden. Cobden-Sanderson. London. 1930.

An adequate life of Leigh Hunt has long been wanted, and no more capable biographer than Mr. Blunden could be desired. This

book is indeed a model of what a biography of a literary man ought to be;—sympathetic to its subject without undue partiality, full, accurate and eminently readable, it cannot fail to secure for Hunt's character and talent the more honourable place in literary history which they deserve, and which has been hitherto too seldom granted them. Dickens's unfair and ill-natured caricature of Hunt as "Horace Skimpole" has darkened the memory of a man who was not only singularly amiable and generous, but also, in spite of some carelessness in his business affairs, essentially honourable and upright. As a man of letters he had formidable rivals: as a poet he was contemporary with Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Keats and Shelley; as an essayist he was out-classed by his two friends Hazlitt and Lamb. Yet he was a real, though a minor, poet, and his prose is still well worth attention both for its purity of style and for the critical insight which enabled him to discover and proclaim genius which the taste of the day ridiculed or ignored. There was much that was picturesque in his long life, which included imprisonment for abuse of the Prince Regent, and having his play applauded by Queen Victoria, and in the circle of his friends were included Benjamin West and the Godwins and the Carlyles and Thackeray. On many of these figures the book before us throws fresh and interesting light, and hence it is sure of a warm welcome from all lovers of that great period of English literature comprised in the first half of the nineteenth century.

E. R.

THE ROMAN LAW OF MARRIAGE. By Percy Ellwood Corbett.
Toronto. Oxford University Press, 1930. xxi-251 pp. \$4.50.

Students of comparative law and legal institutions will find this exhaustive monograph on the classical Roman law of marriage and divorce most instructive. The promise of careful scholarship implied by the name of the author is fulfilled throughout the book. Dean Corbett has produced primarily an analytical study; historical treatment is subordinated, emphasis not being placed upon the primitive and strict law stages of development. The work is based upon the Digest and legal texts, supplemented by the literary authors, inscriptions and papyri. The author also makes readily available to English readers for the first time the essential results of the work of continental scholars in the field of marriage law. Although he does not treat the social aspects of his subject, the reader cannot help realizing anew the tendency to identify law and morals which was a characteristic of the classical Roman law period. This book should find a place on the shelves of everyone who is concerned with the task of shaping our law of marriage and divorce, because he should not only be well grounded in social science and in the philosophy and technique of our legal system, but should avail himself of the experience of other persons and times in meeting essentially similar problems. A very complete and useful bibliography of source and reference material is a feature of the book.

H. E. READ.

ZIMMERMANN'S CAPTAIN COOK. Edited with an Introduction and Notes, by His Honour, F.W. Howay. Ryerson Press, pp. 120.

THREE PLAYS FOR PATRIOTS. By Nathaniel A. Benson. Graphic Publishers, Limited. pp. 153.

THE EXQUISITE GIFT. By Ella Bell Wallis. Ariston Publishers, Limited. pp. 249.

Historical research in Canada shows no sign of waning energy. The *Canadian Historical Studies* is the most recent manifestation of the scientific interest which Canadians take in their country's annals. It is designed as a series of monographs edited by competent hands and produced for a limited number of subscribers, like the Champlain Society. To Judge Howay of British Columbia has fallen the honour of beginning the series with a work of special interest to the most westerly province of the Dominion. This is an account of Cook's last voyage, written by a German sailor in the *Discovery*, which was published at Mannheim in 1781. It is one of the rarest books about the famous navigator in whom contemporary Europe was so keenly interested. Only a few copies are known to exist. Its value lies in the way it confirms, or corrects, details in other narratives. That the editor is conversant with them all, is attested by his many learned foot-notes. The only omissions seem to be the two important articles by Lieutenant-Commander Rupert T. Gould in *The Mariner's Mirror* for October, 1928. The hitherto unpublished accounts of the killing, and Bligh's caustic comments on the "Third Voyage," are most illuminating. Even in such a carefully printed book as this, there are a few "faults escaped", as "Admiralty" (p. 14), "idolatory" (p. 87), and "idolatory" (p. 118). Something queer has happened to the title-page, and the "General Editor's Foreword." It should be noted also that sailors are never "on" their ship, but "in" it. We do not live "on" our dwelling houses. The most valuable part of the book, not for the specialist, but for the general reader, is the long eulogy of the great navigator by the simple foremast hand. Zimmermann was in a position to know and judge, and he must have meant every word he wrote. He had nothing to gain by praising a dead man.

As the Canadian drama is still in its infancy, all experiments in this form have a special interest. These three brief plays by Professor Benson must be classed as experiments, and, while not completely successful, deserve notice and consideration. "Three Plays for Patriots" recalls one of Shaw's well known titles, and suggests a moral in each instance. In the first, Brock, the hero of Queenston Heights, converts hard, old, pipe-clay Sheaffe from his inhumanity, and sensitive, imaginative Darras from the treachery of desertion just before battle. War is a curse both to those who love and those who hate it, is the moral. In "The Patriot", the protagonist is William Lyon Mackenzie. After the fiasco of his most wise rebellion, he is flying for his life and finds shelter with a loyal Irishman, who takes him for a horse thief

until he reveals his identity. When Mackenzie produces his pistol and resists arrest, there is a moment of tension in the situation. The curtain falls to the cliché "a great man and a patriot," a moral not universally accepted. "The Leather Medal" is little more than a long conversation, as it might be in Ottawa, on the well-worn theme of office going to the incapable man with "pull", and not to the capable man who deserves it.

Distinction of style, a sense of spiritual values, and originality of plot are not too common in Canadian fiction, but they are found united in *The Exquisite Gift*, by Ella Bell Wallis. Pioneer life in Old Ontario furnishes the setting for an able study of the maternal instinct. Virginal Rhoda Canniff becomes the stepmother of two families born to two friends of her youth, and finds fulfilment of her life in bringing them up. She looks upon them as brothers and sisters by blood, and strives to make them so regard themselves. But Mother Nature proves too strong for such a convention. A boy and a girl out of the two broods fall in love with each other in the old sweet, innocent fashion. They tell Rhoda that they want to marry, and there is a quarrel. In the end, Rhoda brings to the young lovers the exquisite gift of her penitence. Once she turns tigress, when the sadistic school-master tortures one of her children. Her rawhiding of Munroe is almost as satisfactory as the caning of that other eminent educationist, Mr. Squeers.

ARCHIBALD MACMECHAN.

A HISTORY OF CANADA. By Carl Wittke, New York. Alfred A. Knopff.

Several attempts have been made in recent years by Canadian historians to write a text-book for secondary schools which would give a satisfactory account of the history of Canada. These books have met with varying success, but it seems strange that no thorough and scholarly text that might be used for college classes has ever been attempted. The scholars who might have written such a work have directed their efforts to more specialized studies.

Such a book has now been written by an American, a professor of history in the Ohio State University. There are a few minor flaws in the work, but these do not seriously detract from its general excellence. The narrative is well told; there is a real attempt to give due weight to economic and social factors in the history of the country; there is a good bibliography accompanying each chapter; and, what is of no small consideration to the historian, there is an excellent index.

The space given to various periods of Canadian history is interesting. Four chapters cover the period down to 1774, while one half of the book is devoted to the sixty years since Confederation. It is in these later chapters that Mr. Wittke has broken new ground; and, while his judgments will undoubtedly be revised as the period recedes into the past, there is every reason to admire his courage as well as his fairness.

He ought not, however, to have written that corduroy roads were made out of stumps (p. 75). The council in 1836 did not resign, but were dismissed (p. 104). The term Ontario ought not to be used until after 1867 (p. 87). Somewhat more space might be devoted to the account of the winning of responsible government as given in chapter XII. These are but small blemishes in what is otherwise a splendid piece of work.

G. E. WILSON

THE SPELL OF ACADIA. By Frank Oliver Call, M.A., D.C.L.
L. C. Page & Company, Boston. pp. 427.

The author who would describe the spell of Acadia and do full justice to its romance, its pathos, its natural beauty and its varied history undertakes no easy task. Indeed, over few sections of any country have the events of the past cast a more potent and inescapable charm. This spell is irresistible at Grand Pré, where one almost strains one's ears to catch the wail of departing exiles; the very air of Annapolis is charged with it, while the whole broad area which originally bore the name of Acadia has a rarely romantic history, and is now the tranquil home of many descendants of those who suffered such sorrow and hardship in and immediately after 1755,—and after 1776.

Dr. Call is eminently fitted for the task which he has undertaken. His earlier work, entitled *The Spell of French Canada*, revealed his capacity to enter into and sympathize with every phase of the life of that charming section of our country, and he brings to his task the same profound sympathy, the same rare appreciation of the significance of past history, and the same delicacy, grace and felicity of expression which his former work so richly manifested. He is a delightful *raconteur*; and as one accompanies him down the St. John river, across the Bay of Fundy, on to Annapolis and Grand Pré, around St. Mary's Bay to Yarmouth and thence to Shelburne; or as he conducts the reader through the Garden of the Gulf, Prince Edward Island, and then takes the "Lilac Trail to Louisbourg", one's interest is sustained and one's pleasure undiluted.

To average readers of to-day we fear that the mention of Acadia occasions only thought of the expulsion of its French inhabitants in 1755, to which Dr. Call brings a wide knowledge of history and a balanced judgment, while they remain oblivious of the fact that a larger generation of exiles, the United Empire Loyalists, gave to this region rich hues of adventure and romance. Of this Dr. Call is fully aware, and he gives us a graphic story of their coming and of their hardships. The chapter on Shelburne, that city which was and is not, is one of the most vivid pieces of writing in the book, and historically the most valuable.

It would be difficult to surpass the beauty of some of Dr. Call's descriptions of natural scenery in Acadia. One feels that we have not waited in vain for a poet who could give to his readers an adequate word picture of its unsurpassed beauty. The Acadia of to-day lies before us in these pages, and over this fair land there lies a spell the reason for which and the elements of which become very real to us.

Dr. Call does not attempt exhaustive historical narrative, but he weaves into his story enough of past history from Champlain, La Tour and Marston to Herbin, Carman and Roberts, to give a most alluring picture of this Maritime section of Canada.

In attempting so great a task it was perhaps inevitable that the author should miss some important section of the Acadia of old, and the fact that he makes no reference to the LaHave river, at the mouth of which an old fort stood, the site of which is now marked by a monument commemorating the landing of the French in 1635, and that such beauty spots as one finds along this river as well as Petite Riviere and Port Mouton are passed unnoticed, constitutes a serious omission. This section of Acadia should have been given a place in his book.

Dr. Call's English is delightful, but we cannot forbear questioning his use of the verb when he tells us that his motor car "soared lightly down" a steep decline in the road. While the derivation of the word signifies taking to the air, usage has quite limited the use of the word "soar" to describe an ascent.

The book is tastefully bound in dark green and gold, has a fine map of the territory described, and is embellished with fifty full-page illustrations, in colour and duogravure, of beautiful or historic scenes. Dr. Call has done a fine piece of work, which will help all those who now live in the region comprised in the Acadia of old to appreciate better its interests and its charm, and which will give to those who visit this part of Canada, or who may wish to learn of its characteristics and its history, a fascinating and informative story.

A. H. MOORE

THE POLITICAL LIFE AND LETTERS OF CAVOUR, 1848-1861. By A. J. Whyte, M.A., Litt.D., Oxford University Press, 1930. pp xv-463.

This volume forms a sequel to *The Early Life and Letters of Cavour* by the same author, published in 1925. "The aim of this volume is to give an account of Cavour's parliamentary career and a connected view of his diplomacy. In this task I have been fortunate in being able to use recently published material of great value." The author goes on to say that the "enormous mass of papers, letters, and memoranda" left behind by Cavour has for the first time been "examined, arranged, and systematically edited in the volumes published by the Royal Commission appointed for that purpose."

Most English readers know of Cavour through the works of Thayer and of Trevelyan. Thayer's "Life" seems unlikely to lose its appeal, and Trevelyan's books about the making of Italy are among the most fascinating of modern historical works. But Trevelyan is not trying to discuss Cavour's policy in such detail as Dr. Whyte does, and, in addition to the value of the new material mentioned, it is a good thing to have a more objective and impartial study of the period than is to be found in the pages of Thayer. So far as one may judge, Dr. Whyte's work possesses the virtue of objective impartiality in a high degree. He does not canonize his hero; yet at the end of the straight-

forward narrative and critical discussion, Cavour stands higher than ever, and there is genuine pathos on the last page.

Dr. Whyte says that there are three distinct phases in the statesmanship of Cavour: 1850-1856, an attempt to solve the Italian problem by diplomacy; 1856-1859, "to fight intervention with intervention, and to make war on Austria in alliance with France"; 1860 to the end, a period during which he "reversed his policy, and announced the principle not of intervention but of non-intervention." This doctrine is perhaps not wholly new, but it is a good thing to see it clearly stated and developed with detailed evidence.

Dr. Whyte treats Napoleon more kindly than is customary. He says that there has been a tendency among French and Italian writers to exalt Cavour at the expense of Napoleon. In the matter of the war with Austria: "It took Napoleon two years to make up his mind, and then he sent for Cavour to meet him at Plombières. From the resolution there taken the Emperor never went back. It was his proposal, and he saw it through." Perhaps these statements are true in substance, in spite of Villafranca.

A reviewer ought to point out that the diction occasionally leaves something to be desired. On page 364 occurs the word "votation." This vocable should be unnecessary. The present reviewer, no competent proof reader, has noted one or two examples of inaccurate typography; something that is not expected from the Clarendon Press.

One ought not, however, to leave the work under review without an expression of gratitude for so careful a study of the diplomacy of what is probably the most interesting period of the nineteenth century after Waterloo.

E. W. NICHOLS

THE TOKEN. By Mrs. Edith J. Archibald. The Ryerson Press, Toronto.

This story of Cape Breton wilds, sixty years ago, is an elaboration of the play of the same name which delighted Halifax audiences some two years since. The countryside and its inhabitants are skilfully and adequately drawn. The "tucking-party" and "Sacrament Sunday" seem as far removed from us to-day as they did from the young girl who had lived in the gay life of the British consulate at New York, and was suddenly transported to the home of her father's relatives, and then into the depths of the country, where old Scottish habits were jealously retained and the old home customs religiously observed.

The story of bright-eyed Sheila and fiery-tempered Alan, with its sunshine and shadow, makes interesting reading, the proper "happy ending" being given in the wedding of Flora and her silent suitor, and the prospect of another marriage, that between the hero and heroine, ere the curtain falls. Has our versatile author an eye on the "Pictures" when she gives us that fight on the cliffs, and the rescue by the smuggler's crew?

A book to appeal to all Cape Bretonians, or others of Scottish descent.

S. W. A. ALMON

THE DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE. 2 vols. Harvard University Press. pp. vii, 737.

The first portion of this remarkable document was published in 1926 under the title, *A British Fusilier in Revolutionary Boston*, and it was noticed in THE DALHOUSIE REVIEW for April, 1927. Since its publication, eight more volumes of Mackenzie's diary have been unearthed, in England, by Mr. Allen French, and are now printed with that scrupulous care which is the mark of the Harvard University Press. The bare text, unedited, without note or comment, is offered to the historical student in the simple luxury of a plain, readable page.

An unusual feature of the diary is that it was copied fair from the original, which shows how the diarist regarded his work. And it is much more than a diary. In it are inserted long extracts from "rebel" journals, resolutions of Congress, general orders, findings of courts-martial, returns of troops, even the prices of provisions, as well as detailed accounts of events in which Mackenzie himself was not an actor. Careful maps of his own making assist the reader greatly in understanding the text. As a whole, the Journal is a plain, clear and matter-of-fact record, from the point of view of the professional soldier. The writer's feelings occasionally find expression at the crime of desertion, or the behaviour of the "rebels", or the errors of other officers. If it were complete, this diary would rank with Knox's Journal of the Seven Years War. Even with its regrettable lacunae, it is a document of prime importance. Nowhere else is the march on Concord, the Boston Massacre Cration, the capture of General Prescott, the burning of New York so vividly set forth.

Mackenzie's plain forthright record brings the routine of war vividly before the reader. Battles are not fought every day, but every day troops must be fed, paraded, exercised or set to labour. Weather, hot or cold, snow and rain, the arrival or the shortage of provisions, firing, fresh meat, mean more to all ranks for the time being than winning the war and crushing the rebels. This diary gives the sense of living with the soldiers as they lived. It also makes one realize the prodigious futility of war. There are endless "operations", marchings and counter-marchings, occupations of posts which are afterwards abandoned, and laborious construction of fortifications which prove of no value. Rumors of mutiny among the "rebels", or of their destitution, raise delusive hopes that their resistance will soon collapse and the war will be over. And yet all this vast, manifold output of energy by thousands upon thousands of men for seven years of tragic muddle was only moving to the shame of York Town.

ARCHIBALD MACMECHAN.

HONOUR CLASSICS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO. By a Group of Classical Graduates, with a Foreword by Sir Robert Falconer, President of the University. University of Toronto Press, 1929. pp. 83.

This little volume is appropriately dedicated to Principal Emeritus Hutton, whose portrait appears in the frontispiece, faced by a page

of appropriate Greek and Latin elegiacs. The book is divided into sections as follows: Introduction, Honour Courses at Toronto, The Honour Course in Classics, The Development of Honour Classics 1880-1928, Some Graduates' Impressions, and Graduates in Honour Classics.

There are some thought-provoking words in the Introduction: "All university work on this continent is acutely and increasingly affected by the vast extension of secondary education and the pressure it exerts upon the university. Numbers increase, standards fall." Perhaps the tragedy of higher education in a democracy could not be more succinctly stated; though it is well also to remember that there are other dangers under other polities. In the second section the scope of the Honour Course is set forth. It is interesting to note that there are twenty-six Honour Courses in the Arts Course, and that in 1928-1929 53% of the Arts students in all years in the university were enrolled in Honour Courses. In the third section the idea of the Honour Course is shown as applied to the field of Classics. The fourth section is sufficiently described by its title, but the four examples of Honour Courses at intervals of sixteen years, 1880, 1896, 1912, and 1928, illustrate this development in an interesting way. The most important difference between the Course of 1880 and that of 1928 lies in the more careful articulation and consequently greater coherence of the later one. In the fifth section one of the most interesting of the impressions is the following:

"Our country is poorer because so few men who have taken up Classics enter the business field. Business to-day is concerned primarily with the relations of men to one another. A big business to-day has an almost uncanny likeness to the city-state of 400 B. C. I feel convinced that if the Classical Course were recommended to more young men as a suitable training for business, if the readings were oriented in such a way as to cover the fundamentals of economics, and if the Course were to be handled in such a way that the opportunity for service in business would be emphasized, a better and less selfish grade of men could be recruited for Canadian industries. And I can imagine nothing more important at the present time." The last section, Graduates in Honour Classics 1881-1928, occupies a space of fifteen pages and comprises a list of between four and five hundred names, among which occur some not unknown to scholarly fame. To be able to furnish lists of this kind is no small justification for the existence of a university.

Professor Grandgent speaks somewhere of the "high schools that we call colleges". He appears to have in mind the New England college, an institution of which much good may be said. Canadian colleges may perhaps be left for the present to Canadian consciences. It is creditable to the University of Toronto to have produced in this country a body of scholars of the quality of those here named. A further thought that naturally occurs is that Toronto, building on the basis of an Honour Course such as here described, ought naturally to develop a fully equipped and organized Graduate School. But this matter cannot be discussed at the end of a book-review.

E. W. NICHOLS

WHITE DESIRE. By Ernest Fewster. Overbrook Press, Ottawa. 1930.

From Vancouver comes this pleasant volume of verse to remind us how the interest in Canadian literature, and more particularly in Canadian poetry, now extends from ocean to ocean. No one on the Pacific slope has done more to further this interest than Dr. Fewster. His own prose and poetry have fine qualities; and as the friend of Bliss Carman and as the head of a small but active group of lovers and writers of verse, he has done not a little to create an atmosphere favorable to literary production.

In this small collection of his poems Dr. Fewster shows as the dominant characteristic of his work a keen and discriminating appreciation of natural beauty, and a sensitiveness to the effects of such beauty upon the many moods of the human soul. He does not despise the charm of simple things:—the feather dropped by a dove, the dandelion growing in a city suburb, the dogwood's white bloom in the spring woods, are sufficient to inspire his muse. In one fine lyric however, "Out of the Dark", he strikes a deeper note, and in this we have perhaps the strongest and most impressive poem in the book. As an example of the author's descriptive power we may quote the two opening stanzas of "English Bay":—

Wild wind-swept waters roaring down the shores,
Snow-crested heights where sunlit calm abides,
Bold wooded bluffs and rough blue-heaving floors
Shouting with joy in all their rushing tides.

The sea the colour of the eyes of God,
A visioned glory of His heart's delight,
Green, uncurbed fields whereon white feet have trod
Born from invisible beauty to our sight!

E. R.