

NEW BOOKS

THE CONTROL OF COMPETITION IN CANADA. By Lloyd G. Reynolds. (Harvard University Press). Pp. 324. \$3.50.

This book is an economist's study of the decline of competition between the firms in many Canadian industries. It considers also the efficiency of the newer industrial forms that are replacing competition in these industries—the monopolies or other associations of producers that fix prices or restrict output.

The evidence on which the study is based has been drawn from the illuminable files and reports of government departments, boards and commissions, and to these materials Professor Reynolds has applied methods of analysis recently developed by economic theorists. The result is a volume that eschews the economist's language, but uses his technique to fix at the centre ideas which might otherwise tend to fly to the circumference. Even with such objectivity on the part of the author, the case as stated is likely to create passion in the breast of even the most listless Canadian consumer.

In the industries operating no longer in free competition, Professor Reynolds finds diversity of conditions. In some there is now simple outright monopoly, sometimes even unvarnished: in almost all these instances the monopolists can earn levels of profits which, in most democratic countries, would provoke opposition by press or parliament. In other industries the state of competition is now such that the various plants work normally at less than their full capacity, so that technical costs are not so low as they might be, and price control prevents the consumer from getting the benefit of a larger output at lower prices. In others the same unused capacity encourages the firms to compete, not in price, but in advertising, and the consumers are taxed to pay for the high advertising costs which often add nothing to the usefulness of the product. In still others, combination of firms has created large industrial structures, difficult to manage, but able to exist because of price control. All these cases, which are examples of inefficiency, he illustrates by reference to actual Canadian industries, and the story is disquieting, for while price jurisdiction was always recognised in some industries, the full extent of it is revealed only by such a study as this.

Nor have governments done much to protect the consumer. They have not encouraged the full use of the Combines Act. Worse still, they have sometimes aided the vested interests against the consumer. And since 1929, the remaining competitive industries, especially among primary producers, feeling themselves squeezed in a world of monopolies, have pressed the governments to assist them, and a subsequent series of acts, both Dominion and provincial, have had the avowed aim of limiting production and raising prices.

Of all this Professor Reynolds makes a competent analysis, without any artful insinuations.

S. BATES.

LAWYERS AND LAYMEN OF WESTERN CANADA. By Roy St. George Stubbs. Toronto: The Ryerson Press. 1939. Pp. 197.

This book by a young Winnipeg lawyer consists of a number of biographical sketches of men who made their mark in the early days of the Prairie West. Five are about lawyers, one about a master farmer, and two about journalists. All were men of considerable, though diverse, talents. Indeed it will very likely come as a surprise to readers who are not acquainted with that part of the country to know that men of such ability should have found their way to a pioneering community. In the case of some of them the account here will suggest one answer. At least two or three had a large streak of unconventionality in their character, and the new land promised them scope to work their lives out untrammelled by the restrictions of more settled societies. But whatever the reason of their coming, all of them had interesting lives and have provided sprightly biographical material.

For anyone who wants to learn a little more about this Canada of ours, and to be entertained in the process, this book is worth reading. The reader must not look for fine writing; indeed the author freely confesses that he is an amateur, and makes no claim to literary distinction. In places, for instance, there are passages which will not be acceptable to a generation used to the heady wines of Mr. Strachey or Mr. Guedalla. But the point is that the author has had the enterprize to rescue this fugitive material from the danger of oblivion and, within the limits of his powers, has done a good job. We, ourselves, do not claim to know very much about the men dealt with here. We do, however, know enough of some of them to affirm that his descriptions are substantially authentic. We make one qualification. We should have liked to have had a little more detailed description of Davin's parliamentary career. From what we have heard, he was really outstanding in debate, and unless the stories we have heard about him have been too enthusiastic, we think a more copious reference to some of his speeches in Parliament—they must be accessible in Hansard—would have rounded out the picture a little more satisfactorily. We repeat, however, that we think the author deserves commendation for having quite competently put into permanent form material which is mostly kept alive now only by word of mouth and which, therefore, would soon be lost as those to whom these men were living characters passed from the scene.

G. F. CURTIS.

THE MASTER'S WIFE. By Sir Andrew Macphail. Jeffrey Macphail and Dorothy Lindsay, Montreal, 1939. Pp. 246.

If the late Sir Andrew Macphail were reviewing his own book, I am inclined to think that he would describe it as somewhat whimsical and slightly sardonic. Certainly he would admit that it was clannish

towards both his family and his island home, and he would insist that it was both well written and worth writing. He himself wrote, "By long practice I have learned to articulate sentences"; and his last articulate sentence is a defence of this work: "If this devotion gives pleasure to others, I shall be glad; but even if no one is pleased, I myself had pleasure in the doing it."

The Master's Wife is more than a biography of his mother, and more than a conventional history of her life and times. It could have been called quite as appropriately his own *apologia pro vita sua*, and an impressionistic study of his native community. As such, it is of great interest: for Sir Andrew occupies no small place in the Canadian field of letters, and only he could tell us what influences moulded his complex character and lifted him to that niche in our temple of fame. No doubt there are those who will be dissatisfied with his sympathetic portrayal of the virtues of the sinner, but therein lies the explanation of his "fatal capacity to see the paradox of things"; for, if he had not seen the conflict in his own home between humanism and theology, and discovered through education a way of escape, he might have been lost to the world of letters.

Setting out with the thesis that the history of one family is the history of man and that Prince Edward Island is a microcosm, he compresses into a few pages a vivid picture of his progenitors, the community in which they lived, and the infinite variety of their island home. Through the eyes of a visiting geographer and economist, he sees the island in possession, if in miniature, of all the physical features of the earth; and, through his own eyes, he sees the homestead as an embodiment of the entire system of the old domestic industry, the local church as a manifestation of religion working in a primitive people through all the stages of heresy and conflict to its appointed end, and the local school as the means of escape to a wider world and a fuller life. Though everything is in the book, there is little direct narrative or exposition. Rather he draws a series of pictures, and inscribes on each an explanatory note. Thus the seafaring uncle, with his French brandy and his cheerful profanity, the spar-maker grandfather who killed a sailor with one blow of his fist, the wise and tolerant, unsentimental and unread mother who neutralized the unpractical, religious, schoolmaster-father, the pioneer homes and handicrafts, the superstitions, traditions, and prejudices of the community, all are set down with insight and sympathy. It is only in his asides or digressions that he intrudes his philosophy of life; but the careful reader is not left in doubt as to the relative influences of his mother and father upon his own career and view of life. One illustration must suffice. In describing a pig killing at his mother's home, he adds that there the ceremonial ended with Barbados rum, while in his own home the ceremonial would end with family worship; and, in reference to the former, he writes, "In that house we found early kindness, humour and humanity; a pagan refuge from the problems of sin, of its punishment, and even from the complicated process of the salvation from it." All references to his own life go to show that he preferred the pagan refuge to the Macdonaldite sanctuary.

D. C. H.

NEW WORLD BALLADS. By John Murray Gibbon. The Ryerson Press. \$2.00.

POET AND SALESMAN. By William Thow. (Ryerson Chapbooks: No. 86). Ryerson Press. 75c.

THE LAST BUFFALO HUNTER. By Mary Weekes. Nelson & Sons. \$2.50.

Mr. Gibbon has hit upon the revival of an old practice: the writing of new words to old tunes. In this volume we have a fine collection of songs about all phases of Canadian history and life. Many of these have been sung with marked success over the C.B.C. of late. The volume is well illustrated. This is a book that should be read by all Canadians—sung by them, too, for the tunes are here—but especially by children. The reviewer knows of no other volume that should so easily arouse an interest in Canadian history and a pride in Canada as this book.

The Ryerson Press has done so much for Canadian literature that one seems ungrateful in criticizing publication of this last chapbook. The verse is undistinguished, and the English is inexcusable. Why should such errors as "as useful as him", "for scenes as these", "he and me were better fighting", and "lads like he" appear in a volume from the Ryerson Press? Even *it's* appears as the possessive of *it*.

A few years ago Mrs. Mary Weekes, of Regina, met Norbert Welsh, an old blind retired buffalo hunter of 87 years. Immediately Mrs. Weekes scented a story; Welsh agreed, and the long process of dictation began. Welsh was born on the Assiniboine in 1845; early he became a buffalo hunter and trader over the plains as far west as eastern Alberta; he also tried farming and ranching; he passed through the Saskatchewan Rebellion. There is no plot, of course, and at times there are very similar incidents; these are by no means defects, for the purpose of the volume is to record a stage in the development of the West that ended before 1900. This is very probably the only printed account by an actual buffalo hunter, and so the book is of peculiar value. We see the various Indian tribes and their raids and animosities; Welsh describes very clearly various Indian dances—affairs very different from what Hollywood produces. We see traders who have consciences and traders who have none; we read of the enormous slaughter of buffalo—sometimes economically done, and sometimes not. This book should appeal to Easterner and Westerner alike. Mrs. Weekes, a Nova Scotian by birth, has very generously presented all the early drafts and all her correspondence, as well as a number of gramophone recordings of the songs of the buffalo hunters, to King's College, Halifax.

B. M.

AN INTRODUCTION TO PRACTICAL ORGANIC CHEMISTRY. By
R. V. V. Nicholls. Renouf Publishing Co., Montreal,
1938.

Books intended for college laboratories too often, in these days of pampering, tend to be superficial. It is therefore refreshing to come upon a laboratory text with real meat in it. Both the discussions and the range of experiments are here designed to give the student a practical insight into the theoretical aspects of organic chemistry, and experience in laboratory technique.

Dalhousians will remember the author as the son of Dr. A. G. Nicholls, formerly of the Medical School.

H. S. KING.

A SOCIAL APPROACH TO ECONOMICS. By Harold A. Logan and
Mark K. Inman. (University of Toronto Press).
Pp. 659. \$3.75.

For Canadian students, Professors Logan and Inman have written a text in economics. In one volume they have treated all the subjects which the profusion of this age has separated off into specialized studies—consumption, production, value, distribution of income, banking, business cycles, public finance, international trade, to mention only the main headings. In each section they have tried to incorporate recent innovations in theory, and have drawn their examples from Canadian conditions.

For this endeavour the authors are likely to be reminded that economics is now like the natural sciences: one volume cannot be made to hold all the main principles in view. To attempt it is to make the whole new wealth of the subject look like the meanest copper coins. And, the critics will likely add, a single text will lead to over-simplification: even the copper coins may become spurious in the students' hands. To-day no single name dominates economic thinking, no single school attracts all the young to apprenticeship: it is an age of fragments, and out of this it is not yet possible to write a text, except on the pre-1914 model.

To these objections the authors would probably reply that teachers cannot present students with all the specialized stuff of the different schools and leave them to sift the rubbish heaps for the pearls. Or they might deny that the differences between schools are anything more than storms and squalls on the surface of the subject: calm and continuity are in the depths. There is still room for a text that elaborates principles and gives a vision of the whole, and Canadian students will better understand if the examples are drawn from their own economic system.

S. BATES.

ESSAYS IN CANADIAN HISTORY. Edited by R. Flenley. Toronto, Macmillan, 1939. Pp. x, 372.

To the true teacher, even greater than the pleasure of seeing on his shelves a large number of scholarly books and articles from his own pen is the pleasure of seeing creditable achievement by students and colleagues whom his teaching and example have stimulated to productive scholarship. It is, therefore, difficult to imagine a more acceptable tribute than that which was offered to Professor George M. Wrong on his eightieth birthday, in the form of *Essays in Canadian History* by sixteen of his former students or colleagues, all of whom are engaged in the teaching and writing of history.

Apart from the first, by Professor Martin, Professor Wrong's successor in the chair of history in the University of Toronto, which discusses Professor Wrong's contribution to the study and writing of Canadian history, these essays deal with various aspects of the evolution of Canadian political, constitutional, economic and cultural life and the relations of Canada with Great Britain and the United States. As the editor states, the volume "does not attempt a complete survey of Canadian history. The writers chose their own topics, dealt with them in their own way, and no effort has been made to reconcile differences of view that may exist." None the less, the collected essays show a wide range of interest and make a very creditable and useful volume, besides revealing to Professor Wrong (and the reading public) how far-reaching has been the influence which he exerted during his long tenure of office and how much may yet be expected from the well equipped department which he organized and guided so discerningly.

D. C. H.

JEAN RACINE. By A. F. B. Clark. Harvard University Press. Pp. 354. \$3.50.

THE BURNING ORACLE. By G. Wilson Knight. Oxford University Press. Pp. 292. \$3.75.

It would be difficult to find two scholarly works more different in outlook and tone than these books. Professor Clark is cool, historical, and patient, whereas Professor Knight seems to flash brilliant intuitions before the reader with breathless haste; Professor Clark has no theory to present, whereas Professor Knight sees all the writers whom he discusses as representing the struggle between two forces in literature, "the slow transmutation of volcanic and destructive into creative energies, together with the substitution for the power of the sword of the power of Christ, the sun."

It is notorious that the average cultivated English reader knows little of, and appreciates less, Jean Racine, the greatest writer of tragedy that France has produced; we might go further, and say that

he misunderstands the greatest period in French literature, preferring to set up, as Prof. Clark says, Voltaire or Anatole France as typical of the French genius. After an illuminating chapter in which he shows the various phases of the Paris of Louis XIV—its underworld and its polished court, with the connections between the two; its immoralities, but its genuine devoutness, and suggests influences from these on Racine's work, Professor Clark begins the study of Racine's life: Port Royal, the revulsion against Port Royal, the free life of the theatres of Paris, the entrance to the royal favour—the critic does not hesitate to point out the touch of the *arriviste* in Racine—the success of the plays, the return to the influence of Port Royal, and the last, the religious plays. The last chapters are devoted to a detailed examination of the plays, act by act; this is necessary in a book for English readers, though it does seem to lower the tone of the work as a whole, suggesting relations with the college handbook. This is not to say that these chapters are not worth reading by the professed student of the "Golden Age", for even he will find much wisdom and insight here. In a word, Professor Clark has done exactly what was needed: written a scholarly, but readable book on a man too little known by Anglo-Saxons.

Professor Knight has written essays of varying length on Spenser, Shakespeare, Milton, Swift, Pope, and Byron, and has bound them together with a short "Conclusion: Christianity and Eros". For a person who sees literature from a different standpoint from Prof. Knight it is all too easy to be unfair to this book. One is puzzled and annoyed by such a remark as "Eventually the resurrection of Hermione must be considered the most strikingly conceived, and profoundly penetrating, moment in English literature", and forgets that he has read: "In making women strongest in love, and men in action, Shakespeare is the voice of deep truth." The essays on Spenser and Swift are perhaps the least controversial; strangely, the essay on Shakespeare seems to the present reader the weakest, perhaps because Professor Knight has written at greater length on Shakespeare already. The essay on Milton calls attention to points that are often overlooked: "his peculiar quality of surface richness and thence hardness grows from this iron surface control, this willed effort of poetic domination". Professor Knight rightly emphasizes the frigidity that overtakes much of Milton's thought and expression. Though to the present reader the author seems to see too much in the early poems of Byron—Professor Knight finds Miltonic and Shakespearean touches where most of us find merely heroes out of Mrs. Radcliffe by Horace Walpole—the essay often shows fine insight into Byron's complex character, and the last two pages of the essay are a splendid summing up of Byron as a poet. The reviewer has found the essay on Pope the most perverse in the volume. It is hard to agree that "Eloisa to Abelard" is the greatest short love poem in the language; it might better be described as an interesting poem spoiled by cheap melodramatic effects worthy of the worst of pre-romanticism. Nor can the reader see the warm sympathy that glows in "The Rape of the Lock"; he delights in the mockery of fashionable women, and wonders how the outraged Miss Fermour could have been appeased by the picture of her and other women as empty, vain, spiteful, and

inconstant. The core of the poem is not a lesson on gentleness, but common sense, that blessed possession of the neoclassicists that the romanticists unwisely threw overboard. To say that Pope's facile doctrine of "Whatever is, is right" is close to the teaching of Jesus is arrant nonsense; it is closer to the writings of the 3rd Earl of Shaftesbury. Neither Christ nor Christianity has ever said or believed that this was the best of all possible worlds, as Pope would imply. Our conception of Pope will be radically changed when we find ourselves—the reviewer thinks most scholars are with him—in agreement with this statement: "Pope's mature theory on man and his universe clearly relates exactly to his *Essay on Criticism*, his own poetic practice, and his satires: to his nature-feeling, sympathetic human warmth, and sense of the artistic whole."

B. M.

A HISTORY OF SCIENCE IN CANADA. Edited and with an Introduction by H. H. Tony, D.Sc., LL.D., etc. Ryerson Press. \$2.50.

In June, 1938, the American Association for the Advancement of Science met in Ottawa. On that occasion a group of Canadian scientists read a series of papers on the development of science in Canada, for the benefit of their visitors as well as their fellow Canadians. These addresses form the nine chapters in this book.

The material in this book will be useful to future historians who may want to know something of the state of science in Canada up to the year 1938. The keynote of the essays as a whole is sounded by the first sentence of the Introduction: "That Canada has achieved a respectable place in the world of science, both pure and applied, I am sure no one acquainted with the facts will deny."

There is no attempt to give any account of the recent achievements in the sciences associated with medicine, but perhaps that is contemplated for a later volume. A good deal of the material can hardly be said to be historical in treatment. Most of it sounds as if the writer of the article had depended for information on the material sent in by various professors, giving an account of the personnel and accomplishments of their respective departments. The inclusion of a specimen examination paper in mathematics, of considerable length, seems superfluous in a short chapter in the history of mathematics. The chapter on Zoology contains a statement which will no doubt cause comment in the future, for it will be a matter of regret to any biologist to learn that the cooperation between university departments and the Fisheries Research Board is a thing of the past as the outcome of a deliberate policy, due to "decreased appropriations". The chief sufferers will be the workers in the various stations, who are few in number and geographically isolated from centres where intercourse with professional biologists is possible and most desirable.

There are two delightful chapters, which are really historically treated. They deal with the history of medicine and biology under the French and English Régimes.

A layman reading this book might draw the conclusion that the reason for the colourless style of much of the writing is to be found in a frequently recurring statement: "In spite of heavy teaching for administrative duties, So-and-So manage to publish several papers every year."

D. P.

CANADA, EUROPE AND HITLER. By Watson Kirkconnell. Toronto: Oxford University Press. 1939. \$1.50.

GERMANY'S REVOLUTION OF DESTRUCTION. By Hermann Rauschning. Translated by E. W. Dickes. William Heinemann, Ltd. \$3.50.

THE STORM BREAKS. By Frederick T. Birchall. Viking Press, New York. \$3.00.

These are all of the class known as "war books". They alike contribute to public education on the preliminaries, the issues and the outlook for the great struggle. Each of the three ought to be read with close interest by every Canadian who wants help—and which of us does not?—to make the day-to-day news intelligible?

Professor Kirkconnell's book has a high originality. He is well known as a linguist, and his close study of so many European languages has enabled him to write one particular chapter as very few others could have written it. This is the account of feeling in the communities of alien origin throughout Western Canada, as reflected in their newspapers—German, Ukrainian, Hungarian, Italian and others—which appear in such cities as Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Vancouver. The picture he presents in this section of his book will startle many a reader, who needs to be startled so. For the rest, the discussion of how Canada may contribute to the forming of opinion as well as to the supply of armed forces, by which a peace more durable than the last will be reached, is rich in suggestiveness.

Probably Dr. Rauschning, who held the responsible position of President of the Danzig Senate in the Nazi interest, who had numerous intimate contacts with Herr Hitler, and who by degrees became appalled at his job so that he dropped it and fled, has better title than any other German now writing about the subject to be read in the allied countries. This book presents with great clarity an account of the Fuehrer's purposes and methods which we are now continuously seeing illustrated in act. Dr. Rauschning believes that from the first it was no mere revision of the harsh Peace Treaties, coupled with stimulation of German initiative and self-respect, that Hitler had in mind. Still less was it any horror of the Bolshevik menace to the ancient German order. All this was mere vote-getting pretence. What the Fuehrer from the first aimed at, and now openly avows, should be understood abroad as a tearing up of the traditional German system—an obliteration, above all, of the Christian requirements and scruples. It is no

mystery, rather the plainest of natural developments, that common cause should thus be made between Berlin and Moscow. As proof of this, the author narrates a great deal from his personal knowledge of Nazi conferences and plans. To those who reproach him with thus breaking a confidence, his sufficient reply is that a confidential disclosure of purpose to commit crime is one which no honest man should be expected to keep to himself. An amazing, but everywhere a revealing addition to our war literature.

The third book of the three I have included will be in some respects the most fascinating to Canadian readers. Mr. Birchall served as chief European correspondent of the *New York Times* during the years 1932-1939. He tells us that he went with the purpose of staying one year, and stayed seven years. Subtitle to his book is "A Panorama of Europe and the Forces that have wrecked its peace." This is just what we are given, from the hand of a master journalist. There is not a dull page in the story, describing in sequence how what began when the Disarmament Conference was still meeting hopefully in 1932 advanced to the present European horror. The writer sets forth things just as he saw them, at the points best suited for seeing. And he not merely writes in our language: he thinks, fundamentally, after the manner of our thought.

H. L. S.

ROMAN PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION. By G. H. Stevenson.
Basil Blackwell, Oxford, 1939. 179 pages. \$2.50.

None of the technical aspects of the Roman Republic and Empire more command the interest of the reader of history than that of the government of the Roman provinces. The conquest and administration of the lands surrounding the Mediterranean Sea, which comprise a large part of present-day Europe, Asia and Africa, is recognized as a feat which will always claim the admiration of the world. How Rome managed to achieve such astonishing success, and what contributed to the final breakdown of her power, are questions of perennial importance to those interested in the political organization of Europe.

Mr. Stevenson has presented us with a very readable account of the growth and structure of the Roman provincial system, which is clear enough and not too detailed to appeal to the general reader and yet sufficiently full to answer most of the queries of the student of Ancient History. It may well serve as a worthy successor to W. T. Arnold's *Roman Provincial Administration*, now out of print. The advanced student will want to follow the subject into greater detail in such works as Abbott and Johnson, *Municipal Administration in the Roman Empire*.

Those who are acquainted with the recitals of some of the more lurid episodes in provincial government, such as Cicero's Verrine Orations, or Tacitus's account of the rise of the armies in the provinces, may be a little surprised at the author's almost uniform approval of Roman methods. However, he takes a broad view, and gives considered reasons for his conclusions. Moreover, he stops short at the reigns

of the Antonines, and so misses the increasingly gloomy records of the later collapse.

Roman provincial government is the story of a steady progress from a policy of laissez-faire and an extreme reluctance to accept any responsibilities that could be avoided, with attendant evils in the shape of irresponsible and marauding governors, to a studied attempt to regulate everything from a central capital and to impose a standardized efficiency in all quarters. Somewhere in the central period came the best time in the Roman world, from the point of view of general convenience and prosperity. In the end the pressure of imposed regulation sapped all local energy and initiative, as it seems bound to do in dictatorial systems. Functions and traditions are not built up in a day. When people once get out of the habit of defending and looking after themselves, it takes centuries to develop such capacities again. Such is the lesson that we learn from the Roman Empire.

A. K. GRIFFIN.

THE SPIRIT OF FRENCH CANADA. By Ian F. Fraser. Ryerson Press, 1939.

This is an excellent study, opportune for all who would at present appreciate the contrast between the British and the German conceptions of how races different in language and tradition and attachment to usages of their own may be fused in a single country.

Dr. Fraser is a Scotsman by birth, came in childhood to Canada, and was educated first in Canadian schools, then at Columbia University, New York. He has been teaching French at Columbia since 1930, and his interest in French-Canadian matters was notably shown by his previous publication, *A Bibliography of French-Canadian Poetry*. In the present volume he has set forth in order the story of the national spirit in that section of our people whose ultimate inspiration has been from France. He tells in lucid instructive outline the history of French settlements here, sets forth how the settlers at once preserved and varied the ways they had brought with them from their mother country, discusses the influences not only of Church and School but of persisting language and folklore. It is a book admirable not merely in its purpose and timeliness for promoting good relations by better mutual understanding, but likewise for its literary finish, the combination of sound knowledge with a gift of expression by which the reader is held. Decidedly an addition of value to the year's books.

H. L. S.

CONFESSIONS OF AN IMMIGRANT'S DAUGHTER. By Laura Goodman Salverson. The Ryerson Press.

Mrs. Salverson is well known in the field of Canadian fiction, where she won the Governor-General's Award for 1937. The present work is autobiographical. It is the story of her own life from the time when she arrived as a child with her parents from Iceland, to make

a new home under extremely difficult conditions on this side of the Atlantic. A truly welcome change from those war books to which our attention has been so narrowly limited

The autobiography here before us is one which it is very difficult to lay down. It runs to over five hundred pages, and it is not of uniform quality; it "tails off towards the end". But the great bulk of it is of the very best. Mrs. Salverson makes her own record and fortunes a picture of the times, in Canada and in parts of the United States. She reflects the varied conditions of life in many places as they bore upon one family that she knew well in all its interests—an immigrant family pushing its way through numerous misfortunes. Everywhere, too, from time to time we have some paragraph of pungent, incisive criticism, or some portrait drawn obviously from the real life of a figure—in Church, in industry, in the medical profession—whom fate determined that the writer should know well.

It requires a high gift of authorship to make, out of the autobiography of one who has not been conspicuously in the public eye as a leader in the national affairs, an arresting record such as this. But even for those to whom the name of Mrs. Salverson was previously unknown, this book might well be one which, once begun, could not be laid down until finished. Without abundant leisure for general reading, the present reviewer felt that he wanted to pursue it to the end. That surely speaks well for the autobiography of "a mere novelist".

H. L. S



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