

attraction. In the main, the period covered being a contemporary one, it will possess an interest which remote events usually fail to arouse; though the writer will have the drawback of having to contend with judgments already formed and a criticism which is more or less influenced by the predilections of the reader. Nevertheless, the author is acquitting himself well of his task, and, on the whole, commenting with judicious fairness on the events which have taken place within the memory of the present generation. The plan of the work is in itself attractive, viz., that of grouping facts and events into chapters which typify and illustrate the formative periods of the country's growth rather than the setting forth in minute detail of the history from year to year. This procedure gives room for picturesque writing, and presents the events of the time in a guise most acceptable to the general reader. The work, we may add, has the aid of excellent typography, and is enriched by a number of portraits of prominent men, fairly well engraved on wood, and, generally speaking, good likenesses.

In the title, *A Popular History of the Dominion of Canada, from the discovery of America to the present time*, by the Rev. W. H. Withrow, M.A., we have a clue to the character of the work issued by the talented editor of the *Canadian Methodist Magazine*. The work is essentially a popular history, covering the whole ground of the national annals, with a necessarily brief but intelligible outline of the history of each separate Province. It is especially attractive in its treatment of the earlier history of the country; its narrative of the explorers and discoverers, the heroic struggle between the two races for possession of the continent—the story of the Jesuit missions, the histories of the Indian tribes, and the gradual colonization

and material development of the Dominion being particularly well brought out and sympathetically delineated. The narrative of the later history, the incidents of the American Revolutionary War, the settlement of the Upper Province by the U. E. Loyalists, the political struggles which preceded the rebellion era, and the more recent story of Confederation, as well as the national growth and development of the country, find a fitting treatment and a just and appreciative consideration. The work is deserving of its success, to which the author's pleasant style of narration contributes something; and it bids fair to retain a firm hold upon public favour as a lively and faithful narrative of Canadian history.

In the department of "history and biography" our French compatriots have not been quite idle during the past two years, though the English writer in the Upper Province is at no little disadvantage in chronicling their literary undertakings, from the absence of information as to the doings of the *littérateurs* of Quebec, and the difficulty of meeting with the publications of the Lower Canadian press in the West. Those who control the public libraries of the Upper Province greatly fail in their duty in manifesting so little interest in the writings of literary men in the Sister Province, whose industry and historic pride in the literature of their section of Canada are notable characteristics which do credit to their intelligence and public spirit.

So far as we have been able to glean, however, the chief contributions to history issuing from French Canada appear to consist of papers read before the Historical Societies of Montreal and Quebec, and of *brochures* containing historical memoranda relating to persons and events in the earlier life of the country. The most important of these is the Seventh