

companion-work on *Classical Geography*, can be dismissed with shorter comment. Both are carefully written ;—the first is well illustrated with explanatory maps and diagrams, —the latter is, if anything, a little too de-

tailed for the elementary purpose for which it is intended.

We reserve till another time the review of the kindred series of *Primers in Literature and Science*.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

TOPICS OF THE TIME.

IN perusing the handsome volume, just issued from the press of Mr. Lovell, of Montreal, on the "History of Lord Dufferin's Administration in Canada," no feature of his Excellency's interest in the affairs of the Dominion is more noticeable than the eager and enthusiastic manner in which he manifests his solicitude for the progress of education in the country, and his sympathy with every department of its work. In the admirable commentary running through the book, upon the varied subjects which interested his Lordship, in his successive tours through Canada, again and again does the editor, Mr. Leggo, refer, and with as oft-recurring satisfaction, to the impetus given to education by Lord Dufferin's hearty recognition of its value as a factor in the development and elevation of our people. A scholar himself, and a man of the broadest and highest culture, his intense interest in the mental equipment of our youth, and his encouraging words to those engaged in the work of education, were the result of his own wide and generous appreciation of every form of human knowledge. Readily as he sought the occasion to belaud learning, and munificently as he encouraged in others its pursuit, he yet never paid to it the mockery of a hollow compliment, or uttered a word in its behalf for mere effect. If, at any time, he indulged himself in the exhibition of his own accomplishments as a scholar and classicist, it was from no motive of pedantry, but rather from a desire to pay a marked tribute of respect to those who honoured him. In this, however, he but emphasized the effect of his own words on

behalf of a liberal education; and, by the grace and brilliancy of his utterance, manifested the advantage to be derived from a classical training. But the sincerity of his purpose to be of service to education, in any words he addressed to those interested in it, finds readiest evidence in the wise counsel he gave to the youth of both sexes wherever, in school or seminary, he came in contact with them. Nothing can exceed not only the felicity and tact of these addresses, but the admirable appropriateness of their varied homilies on life and manners. Many of these will be recalled with pleasure as illustrations of happy turns of speech, and the monitions of a courtly but shrewd and keen-sighted observer. Those specially referring to the qualities that refine the life, and stamp with the symbols of gentility the budding youth of the country, cannot be too frequently recurred to, or their hints too deeply impressed upon the mind. The addresses to the pupils of the Young Ladies' College, Brantford, McGill Normal School, Laval Normal School, and the Loretto Convent, Toronto, are particularly worthy of note in this respect, while those delivered to the students of the various Colleges and Universities visited by his Excellency, are equally notable for their wisdom and their impassioned appeals to the pursuit of an intellectual life. As Mr. Leggo remarks, "Lord Dufferin was never a formal visitor at any of our educational institutions," and the substantial stimulant of his generous medal-awards to promote proficiency in studies, indicates the personal interest he had in their work, and the practical means he took advantage of to further their success.