

## THE BOOK PAGE

Wherever a County of Pictou man is to be found—and that is all over the world, Rev. J. P. Macphie's **Pictonians at Home and Abroad** will be welcomed. That rugged and beautiful westernmost county of Nova Scotia has a widespread fame for the number it has supplied to the learned professions, and, in addition to a luminous and interesting account of the history of the county from its strenuous pioneer days in the seventeen hundreds, Mr. Macphie gives the story in wonderful detail of the men and women who made the county and who made it famous. It is verily a "book of the genealogies of the men of Pictou." It would be an interesting exercise in arithmetic to sum up the number of these leaders in public life, in law, in medicine, and especially in the ministry; for it is certain that no county in Canada has produced more ministers of the gospel than Pictou County. Many of these, such as the McGregors, father and son, the McCullochs, father and son, Dr. William Fraser, long time clerk of the General Assembly, Principal George M. Grant, rendered conspicuous service to the church and the cause of education. Mr. Macphie has done his work well. The detail of information is amazing. It has evidently been a task of love. Not the least interesting part of the book is the thirty full-page well-executed half-tone illustrations. Amongst county histories this will take a high stand. It is greatly to be desired that a similar work should be undertaken for every county in Canada, for, as Joseph Howe, himself an eminent Nova Scotian, has well said: "A wise nation preserves its records, decorates the graves of its illustrious dead, and fosters national pride and love of country by perpetual references to the sacrifices and glories of the past." The book contains 204 large pages, costs \$1.50, and may be ordered from Rev. J. P. Macphie, M.A., New Glasgow, N.S.

From Bell & Cockburn, Toronto, we have received **With Mr. Chamberlain in the United States and Canada, 1887-88**, by Sir Willoughby Maycock, K.C.M.G., who, as Mr. Maycock, was private secretary to the great British statesman when he came to Washington, in the capacity of senior British plenipotentiary, to arrange, if possible, a settlement of the Canadian fishery question. The book (278 pages, 30 illustrations, \$3.50 net) gives an interesting account of a tour which embraced many of the largest cities in the United States and Canada. There is anecdote in abundance, and the author gives an extremely lifelike picture of Birmingham's famous son, as well as many bright sketches of American society of the period. The text of the treaty which Mr. Chamberlain assisted to negotiate is given, and the narrative closes with an account of his second trip across the Atlantic to bring his American bride to her English home. Another much less pretentious, but useful book is **The Life of Joseph Chamberlain** (T. Nelson & Sons, Toronto, 320 pages, 35c. postpaid), containing seven chapters by well-known writers on various aspects of Mr. Chamberlain's career.

In **The Twenty-fourth of June Midsummer's Day** (McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, Toronto, 404 pages, \$1.25 net), Grace S. Richmond has given us

another beautiful portrayal of home life. Richard Kendrick, the wealthy grandson of Matthew Kendrick of Kendrick & Company, famed for their big stores in various cities, lives with his grandfather, his father and mother having both died, in a palatial residence which nevertheless does not supply the elements of a true home. How young Kendrick, who having a distaste for business, was wasting his time in the frivolities of "society," until a fortunate chance introduced him into the charming home of the Grays and how their influence fired him with the ambition to make something worthy of his life, an ambition so successful that at last he won, first the respect and then the love of Roberta Gray, who at first despised him as a useless butterfly of fashion,—this is the barest outline of an altogether delightful and thoroughly wholesome story.

A new novel by Hugh Walpole is entitled **The Duchess of Wrex**: Her Decline and Death, A Romantic Commentary (George H. Doran Company, New York, Bell & Cockburn, Toronto, 503 pages, \$1.40 net). The Duchess is the head of the noble family of the Beaminsters over whom she rules with a rod of iron, exercising also, through the sheer weight of tradition, a powerful influence in the politics of England. But at last, through the revolt of a granddaughter who, in the resolve to live out her own life, the domination of the old autocrat is broken. The author makes us see, in the dethronement of this family tyrant, the passing of political power from the class which she represents into the hands of the common people, and the development of the spirit of universal brotherhood is eloquently portrayed. Readers of *Fortitude*, by the same author, will find in this story the same compelling interest as in the earlier book.

**The Red Wall**, by Frank Saville (Thos. Nelson & Sons, 421 pages), tells a vivid story of an adventure in a Central American republic. Dick Blake, a secret agent of the United States, is sent to investigate the landings of some hundreds of Germans in a republic close by the Isthmus of Panama. How he solved the mystery and aided the overthrowing of the ambitious schemes of Germany, make up the story. Eileen O'Creagh, the brave daughter of a renegade British Consul, journeys with him through the wilds. She nurses him when he is wounded, shares his perils when insurgents pursue, and finally escapes with him through the flying ashes of a new volcano. Presidents, intriguers, half-breed Indians, Spaniards and soldiers give color to this romance, which will appeal to those who like stories full of action and do not question too closely the probabilities.

**Nancy the Joyous** is set in a variety of scenes in the 253 pages of her story as told by Edith Snow (the Copp Clark Co., 253 pages, \$1.00 net). You see her first in a little prim parlor in a New England village; then in a luxurious home in New York, and lastly in a mission school among the poor whites in the mountains of the Southern States. Nancy's lover was a budding diplomat. In a spirit of mistaken self-sacrifice she casts him off and sends him lone and forlorn to a clerkship in the American legation in Peking. It is only in the last page of the book that a series of fortunate chances reunites them. Nancy has lost none of her