

OUR TABLE.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.*

We have been obligingly favored by Mr. Dawson with a glance at the first volume of the above work, which has just been issued from the press. In point of typography, as might have been expected, the work is well brought out, and from its similarity of style, appears intended as a companion to Macaulay! Our opportunity has been too short to enable us to judge accurately of the whole of its merits, but we feel warranted nevertheless, in recommending it strongly to the reading public, as a work written in a most pleasing style, and calculated to throw much light on historic events, hitherto hid in obscurity. To convey an idea of the style of the author, we quote a short passage, from chapter 14—the subject being, New England under Charles II.

"The Puritan colonists of New England had watched, with no little anxiety, the rapid progress of that revolution in Great Britain, which restored Charles II. to his father's throne—the same ship that brought to Boston the first news of the Restoration, brought also two of the Regicide judges, flying for their lives, Whalley and Goffe, his military officers under Cromwell

"Courteously received in Massachusetts, by Governor Endicott, and the magistrates, they remained there for some time, without disguise or concealment. The news, indeed, by this arrival, was by no means decisive. The General Court of Massachusetts, met at its regular session, and adjourned, without taking any notice of the changes going on in England. Some weeks after, full accounts were received, of the re-establishment of royalty; of the Act of Indemnity, and the exception from it, of all those concerned in the death of the late king."

The author says in his preface:

"Of centennial sermons and Fourth-of-July orations, whether professedly such or in the guise of history, there are more than enough. It is due to our fathers and ourselves, it is due to truth and philosophy, to present for once, on the historic stage, the founders of our American nation unbedaubed with patriotic rouge, wrapped up in no fine-spun cloaks of excuses and apology, without stilts, buskins, tinsel, or bedizenment, in their own proper persons, often rude, hard, narrow, superstitious, and mistaken, but always earnest, downright, manly, and sincere. The result of their labors is policy enough; their best apology is to tell their story exactly as it was."

It is full time that the *special pleading*, which frequently is mis-named history, should be frowned down. We, therefore, hail with pleasure the appearance of the present work, in which the "mutual relations of facts, the bond which unites them, and the causes and effects of events," are promised to be faithfully revealed.

* The History of the United States of America, from the discovery of the continent, down to the present time; by Richard Hildreth; in three volumes, quarto—Hess & Brothers, New York; B. Dawson, No. 2 Place d'Armes, Montreal.

THE NATIONAL ATLAS.*

The English Edition of this Atlas is so extensively known and so highly appreciated, that little need be said by us to recommend it to the notice of our readers. It has received the commendation and approval of the most competent judges in Britain, including Alison, the historian, Sir David Brewster, Professor Traill, the Royal Geographical Society, &c. This edition—the Canadian—while containing all the matter of the English edition, is supplied at a much cheaper rate, being advertised to be completed in five monthly parts, at 12s. 6d. each. The first part, now before us, consists of nine very interesting and well executed Maps of the Two Hemispheres, Northern Italy, India, Europe, Southern Italy, Palestine, South America, China, and Denmark, together with an explanatory Table of the most celebrated mountains, rivers and waterfalls in the world.

In the present day, when events of historic importance succeed each other so rapidly, and the world is convulsed in so many different quarters, the study of geography has become more than ever necessary and useful, and we are certain that no better or cheaper guide can be obtained, by the student, than the National Atlas.

THE CANADIAN GUIDE BOOK.†

WE have been favoured with an early copy of this excellent and useful work. It will be found an admirable guide both to the pleasure-seeking tourist and to the hardy emigrant, who desires to know something of the geographical features and agricultural capabilities of the land of his adoption. Besides the descriptions of the more frequented routes which lie along the main artery of the St. Lawrence, from Niagara to Quebec, very interesting notices are also given of others, less known, perhaps, but whose natural beauties and romantic scenery render them well worthy of the tourist's attention,—such, for instance, as the Saguenay, the Falls of Shawinigan, the Chaudière at Bytown, &c. The appendix contains numerous statistical tables relative to the population, productions, exports, imports, &c., of the Province, together with the tariff of duties now in force. We must not omit to mention that this handsome volume is accompanied by a large Map of the Province, admirably engraved by Johnston of Edinburgh, which alone is worth the cost of the whole book.

* The National Atlas.—Canadian Edition; with copious Index.—Montreal, Armour & Ramsay.

† The Canadian Guide Book, with a Map of the Province; price five shillings.—Montreal, Armour & Ramsay.