

We who fight beneath those banners,
Meeting ranks of foemen there,
Find a deeper, broader meaning
In your simple vesper prayer.

When your hands shall grasp this standard,
Which, to-day, you watch from far,
When your deeds shall shape the conflict
In the universal war,
Pray to Him, the God of battles,
Whose strong eye can never sleep,
In the warring of temptation,
Firm and true your souls to keep.

When the combat ends, and slowly
Clears the smoke from out the skies,
When, far down the purple distance,
All the noise of battle dies,
When the last night's solemn shadows
Settle down on you and me,
May the love that never faileth,
Take our souls eternally.

2. UNAVAILING REGRETS OF THE MOURNER.

I saw a pale mourner bending over a tomb, and his tears fell fast and often. As he raised his weeping eyes to heaven, he cried, "My brother, oh! my brother!"

A sage passed that way and said, "For whom dost thou mourn?" "For one," replied he, "whom I did not sufficiently love whilst living, but whose inestimable worth I feel now that I have lost him."

"What wouldst thou do, if he were restored to thee?"

The mourner replied that he would not offend him by one unkind word, but would take every occasion to show his friendship, if he could come back to his fond embrace.

"Then waste no time in useless grief," cried the sage, "but, if thou hast friends, go and cherish the living, lest thou shouldst have to mourn for thy neglect of them when they are called away from this world."

3. THE VALUE OF CANADA TO ENGLAND.

We take the following from a letter written by Mr. George Augustus Sala, to the *London Telegraph*, from Montreal:—

"When I say that the Bank of Montreal is one of the finest examples of Corinthian architecture to be found in the American continent; that the Rue Notre Dame is full of gay and handsome shops, very like those of the Rue St. Honore at Paris; that the Bonsecours market is an imposing edifice in the Doric style, which cost two hundred and eighty thousand dollars; that the Court House, or Palais de Justice, and the Post-office, are both vast and noble structures, and that the city is full of cottages, and schools, and hospitals, the *blase* and the indifferent among my readers may perhaps begin to yawn, and to say that they have heard all this sort of thing before. I respectfully submit that, to all its intents and purport, men have about as definite an idea of Montreal, of Toronto, and of Quebec, as they have of Owyhee or of Antanarivo. Is it impertinent in me to assume that my friends at home are as ignorant as I was the day before yesterday? It seems to me that, abating a few merchants, a few engineers, and a few military men, it has hitherto been nobody's business in England to know what the Canadas are like. It is not the 'thing' to go Canada. One can 'do' Niagara without penetrating into the British Provinces. English artists don't make sketching excursions thither. The Alpine Club ignore it. Why does not some one start a Cataract Club? We let these magnificent Provinces, with their inexhaustible productiveness—for asperity of climate is no sterility—their noble cities, their hardy and loyal population, go by. We pass them in silence and neglect. We listen approvingly while some college pedant, as bigoted as a Dominican, but without his shrewdness, as conceited as a Benedictine, but without his learning, prates of the expediency of abandoning our Colonies.* If we meanly and tamely surrendered these, the brightest jewels in the Queen's crown, can we tell into whose hands they would fall—what hatred and ill-will might spring up among those now steady and affectionate in their attachment to our rule, but from whom we had withdrawn our countenance and protection? But Canada has been voted a 'bore,' and to be 'only a colonial' would apply, it would seem, to a province as well as to a bishop. I have not the slightest desire to talk guide-book, or even to institute odious comparisons, by dwelling on the strength and solidity, the cleanliness and comeliness, the regard for authority, the cheery but self-respecting and respect-exacting tone which prevails in society; the hearty, pleasant, obliging manners of the people one sees at every moment in this far-off city of a hundred thousand

souls, with its cathedrals, its palaces, its schools, its convents, its hospitals, its wharves, its warehouses, its marvellous tubular bridge, its constantly-growing commerce, its hourly increasing prosperity, its population of vivacious and chivalrous Frenchmen, who, somehow, do not hate their English and Scottish fellow-subjects, but live in peace and amity with them and who are assuredly not in love with the Yankees. But it really does make a travelling Englishman 'kinder mad,' as they would say south of the forty-fifth parallel, when he has just quitted a city which, in industry, in energy, and in public spirit, is certainly second to none on the European continent; and which, in the cleanliness of its streets, the beauty of its public buildings, and the tone of its society, surpasses many of them—to know that a majority of his country are under the impression that the Canadian towns are mere assemblages of log-huts, inhabited by half-savage backwoodsmen in blanket-coats and moccasins, and that a few mischievous or demented persons are advocating the policy of giving up the Canadas altogether. Happily there is a gentleman in Pall-mall who has been to Canada—who has seen Quebec, Toronto, and Montreal. The name of that gentleman—the first in our realm—is Albert Edward, Prince of Wales; and he knows what Canada is like, and of what great things it is capable."

VIII. Short Critical Notices of Books.

—THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN ALMANAC AND ANNUAL RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1864.—Montreal: John Lovell.—We are proud to see this national work of Mr. Lovell's. It is a volume that will fittingly represent the British North American Provinces abroad, and will do much towards enabling the people of Britain and other countries to form a juster estimate of the importance and capabilities of these Provinces; and the publisher, no doubt, has had this commendable object partly in view in devoting so much space to the articles on the "Natural Advantages of the Country," the "Intercolonial Railway," the "Gold Mines," "Emigration," &c. To the people of these Provinces, this Year Book is replete with matters of interest in its varied subjects of information. The statistical tables place a vast amount of carefully compiled facts in the hands of the public; so, its list of members of the Council, Legislative Assembly, Judiciary, Clergy, the Military and Volunteer Forces, &c. Indicates its wealth of well-digested information, the volume cannot fail to be indispensable to the merchant and the professional man, and of great utility to all classes. There are many features, also, in this Almanac, which will be readily noticed, that give it its representative character. The Historical and Topographical chapters, the account of the Hudson Bay Territory, the Sketch of the State and Progress of Education the Geographical Outlines, the Patents granted, and the Chronicle of Events, all furnish, in this admirable compend, the desired information relating to the condition of the country that elevates the work into a Provincial Encyclopedia. There is much else in this Year Book of value and interest to the people of these Provinces, but we have only space to add that we esteem this Almanac a necessity to them, and we trust that they will accord the work the support that it deserves, and enable the patriotic publisher to make it even more useful in future years.—*British American Magazine*

—FIRST LESSONS IN SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE.—By J. W. Dawson, F.R.S., LL.D.—Montreal: John Lovell.—The public owe many thanks to Principal Dawson and Mr. Lovell, for this last addition to "Lovell's Series of School Books." Any thing that helps to improve our farmers and farming is a public benefit, and we hope the time will soon be, if it be not already past, when it shall be considered necessary for a farmer to be possessed of only a very slight education. When Agriculture shall be regularly a branch of study—something to be learned as well as Law, or Medicine, or any other study, we shall hope to see many more intelligent, cultivated farmers, the real strength of a country like ours, and fewer very indifferent doctors and lawyers, traders and clerks. Thanks then to Principal Dawson for an effort to help in the right direction, to show that the tillage of the soil may be improved by a little tillage of the brain also. We hope his little book may not only cause in many places two blades of wheat to grow where only one grew before, but also two sowers of wheat to grow up in many a family instead of one. The book is strictly an "elementary" one, intended to be used in schools or by individuals for their own private instruction, and the Principal advises it to be followed by some of the larger works on agriculture, when students shall have so mastered this as to be able to use them to advantage. Mr. Lovell could have made no more useful addition to his excellent series of Canadian school Books.—*Montreal Gazette*.

* Quere. Professor Goldwin Smith, in his fallacious "Empire"?