

## ARCTURUS:

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JOHN CHARLES DENT,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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## CANADIAN ANTIQUITIES.

ALTHOUGH many Canadians have some knowledge of the history of their native land, our national antiquities have not received at the hands of our scientists the attention which they deserve. These antiquities are of course the earliest remains of the Indians. The most important researches that have up to the present been made in this field of anthropological enquiry have emanated nearly altogether from outside of Canada. It may be said indeed that outsiders know more of prehistoric America than the inhabitants of the American continent. There is nothing in Canadian literature to compare with the contributions of Markham, Virchow, or Powell. There is not even a recognized handbook upon the subject. There is not a first-class collection of remains, as one would expect to find in a country filled with the debris of aboriginal history. Yet there cannot be a more deeply interesting study than this savage archæology, if patiently and properly pursued. It is almost safe to assume that more is known of the Belgian cave-dwellers of the paleolithic ages than of the prehistoric dwellers in Canada. Perhaps half a million of years separate their respective periods of vitality. It might be that some light would be thrown upon the genesis of the North American Indian, still a *verata questio* among ethnologists, who do not all agree with the theory of the Hittites in America as once propounded by an ingenious but also illused philologist of Montreal. At any rate, if only from the mere desire to preserve from destruction the relics of ancient days when the red men ruled the land, some organized attempt should be made to collect for the nation these objects of archæological value and interest. They tell a great story in a little compass, and should not be lost. The majority of finds are undoubtedly of the neolithic order; but there are probably many far older relics of early life on what is now Canadian soil. The Canadian Institute should take up this work, and in no hap-hazard manner. As many specimens of pottery, shell, bone, horn and stone utensils, weapons and ornaments should be secured as is possible, with a view to forming a national collection of Canadian antiquities accessible to the public. The necessity for speedy and thorough action in this matter is absolute and apparent, for the monuments of ancient savagery are not of the large and lasting nature that pertain to ancient civilization. They are devoid of the historic associations connected with temples, coins, bronzes, etc., belonging to classi-

cal archæology it is true; but there is nevertheless a great interest attaching to the rude implements and utensils of a more primitive life. These are still plentiful in Canada. They are ploughed up every spring and fall, and flung aside by the laborious but unsympathetic agriculturist, in whose eyes the only yield is that of a good harvest of golden grain. It is not to be expected that he will waste his time over the buried remains of other days, and certainly it is not his business; but by this time there should be sufficient spirit and energy among the many savants of this Dominion to seriously undertake a *thorough* research in the direction of Canadian antiquities. No doubt there exist many private collections of such relics; but these are inaccessible alike to the student and to the public. What is wanted is a national collection, and it is to be hoped steps will soon be taken to supply the need. Then we may expect to find some Canadian Evans among us capable of writing an accurate and interesting description of aboriginal reliquia.

E. G. G.

## Book Notices.

THE TALE OF TROY. Done into English by Aubrey Stewart, M.A., late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. London and New York, Macmillan & Co. Toronto, R. W. Douglas & Co.

In this work Mr. Stewart has given us "the tale of Troy divine" in prose form, in admirable English, and in the very spirit and style of Homer. He begins with the old-fashioned "Once upon a time," and the sequel is of the adventurous and romantic character to which the story everywhere lends itself. The book is doubtless chiefly intended for the use of young persons, but it may be read with pleasure and profit by persons of any age—even by students of Homer. The following brief extract will show how thoroughly the author has imbued himself with the spirit of the Father of Greek poetry:—

"As when a strong west wind blows, the waves first rear their crests far out at sea, and then, growing ever longer and heavier as they draw nigher to the land, break with a thunderous roar upon the beach, and toss the spray high above the tall cliffs of the shore, even so did the Greeks that day roll unceasingly onward against the hosts of Troy. Man to man and lance to lance they fought; and dread was the clash of shield against shield, the shouts of the warriors and the groans of the fallen, while beneath their feet the plain of Troy ran red with blood."

FOUR WINDS FARM. By Mrs. Molesworth. Illustrated by Walter Crane. London, Macmillan & Co. Toronto, R. W. Douglas & Co.

This is another book written for the entertainment of young people, but possessing merits which may well recommend it to children of a larger growth. "This," says the author, towards the close of the last chapter, "is only the story of the very opening of the life of a boy who lived to make his mark among men." It tells how little Gratian Conyfer, the godchild of the Four Winds, meets with and successfully withstands the first great temptation which assails him. The narrative is clearly and beautifully told, and its little hero gains a strong hold upon the reader's affections. Mrs. Molesworth inscribes the volume to her "youngest daughter Olive," because, as she says, they thought of it together. The spiritual truths conveyed are however the work of no "youngest daughter," and the text is that of a