

was well handled throughout. Mrs. Masham Rac displayed the usual ignorance and general deficiency of an amateur, but has so many good qualifications for the stage that she has every chance of achieving success through perseverance.

MISS MARY ANDERSON produced "A Winter's Tale" at Nottingham lately, before a large and fashionable audience, with brilliant results. Her daring experiment proved remarkably attractive, and her peculiar grace and charm never showed to better advantage than in the part of Perdita.

At a performance in aid of the Theatrical Fund at Drury Lane, Mrs. Brown Potter delivered a recitation of Kingsley's weird and tragic poem, "Lorraine Loree," most effectively, and proved she had profited by the criticism of her censors.

MR. IRVING is reported to have purchased the acting rights in the late Mr. Watts Philip's clever melodrama entitled, "The Dead Heart," performed at the Adelphi in 1859. He will, when the play is produced, appear in the part of "Robert Laudry, the prisoner of the Bastille," originally represented by Benjamin Webster.

"RUDDIGORE," as it appeared at the Grand Opera House last week, ought to have been an agreeable surprise to every one who went there prepared to expect nothing. The unfortunate opera has been damned by faint praise on this side of the Atlantic, though it met with a favourable reception in London, and is certainly handicapped by following in the track of such a phenomenal success as the "Mikado." No wonder it should fall flat upon the public after the gorgeous costumes, dazzling effects, and fetching fans of its Japanese predecessor. The taste for its delicate satire and artistic quality has been vitiated by a largely spectacular piece, and also by that element of grotesque and exaggerated humour originated in Koko, and reproduced in the dual villainy of "Erminie." In "Ruddigore" the old school of melodrama is admirably burlesqued in a spirit that doubtless appeals more to an English than a Canadian audience, but which, nevertheless, is so true to fact that no one who is acquainted with the modern melodrama presented nightly at the Adelphi Theatre can fail to enjoy the humour of the opera. The music is far too good also for general popularity; in it Sir Arthur Sullivan has outdone all his former efforts, though it is probably too technically excellent to be catchy. The quaint old-fashioned costumes pale possibly before the brilliancy of Mikado robes, but are none the less charmingly suggestive of bygone days, and bring with them a delicate aroma of simplicity and innocence which seems almost out of place upon the stage. The scenic effects of several of the chorus groups reminded us strongly of some of Marcus Ward's graceful Christmas cards, in which wreathed maidens in clinging draperies tread slow measures in flowery meads. Mr. John Stetson's company is an excellent one, worthy of all praise for its careful and finished presentation of a somewhat novel style. When all were so good, it is difficult to recognise individual merit; but Miss Ida Muller may be mentioned as making a most realistic Rose Maybud. She played a part with delicacy and humour which the slightest tendency to exaggeration would have perverted into coarse vulgarity, and seemed indeed created expressly for the character she represented, though the flavour of "a little maid" hangs round her still. Mr. Louis James, as Robin Oakapple, gave a most careful rendering of a very exacting role. His face is most expressive, and he possesses an individual charm of his own, which must be seen to be appreciated. Mr. J. W. Herbert had no opportunity in his meagre part to display the talent so indubitably associated with his Koko, but he made the most of what he had assigned to him; while Mad Margaret (Miss Agnes Stone) caricatured ordinary stage insanity very cleverly. "Ruddigore" contains but two acts, and ought to, and will with time, grow upon the public. It should certainly take rank after the "Mikado" and "Patience," and has, besides, merits of its own apart from either. E. S.

THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH IN NORTH AMERICA.*

IN THE WEEK of March 10, we called attention to the early volumes of this monumental work on the history of the American Continent, from the pens of a number of historical experts, edited by the Librarian of Harvard University, with the assistance of an advisory committee of the Massachusetts Historical Society. The present instalment increases our interest in this great work, and heightens the value we are disposed to place upon it, as the most valuable contribution to American and, if we except Parkman's works, to Canadian history that has yet appeared. The plan of the book is unique. It is the work not of one but of many writers, each being a specialist in his own department, and each having a distinct period or a particular region to write about. Besides this, each subject has a twofold presentation, the one being the complement and necessary outgrowth of the other. There is, first, a narrative of occurrences, grouping the salient points of the story, and embodying the results of the fullest and latest research. Secondly, there is a critical essay, based on the facts elicited, in which everything is sifted and placed in proper perspective, all being in a form which, while it is in itself attractive, leaves the reader free to exercise his own judgment, and deduce his own conclusions. Supplemental to this, and perhaps most important of all, is the citation by the editor of all the authorities and sources of information—the whole forming a complete monograph of each subject presented. The importance of the method thus pursued will be manifest, for it re-creates the past, as it has been said, out of its own monuments, and supplies such a mass of well-marshalled facts,

too vast for individual research to gather and present, on which any one, if he is so minded, can construct his own theory of the history.

The volume before us, in the main, takes up the story of Canadian colonisation and conquest where the fourth volume left off. The period dealt with is that between the era of the English Revolution and the close of French dominion in the New World. The previous volume, it will be remembered, dealt with the French discoveries and settlements in America from the earliest period to the reappointment of Frontenac, including the thrilling story of the Jesuit and Recollet missions to the Indians. This deals with the French occupation of Louisiana and the Mississippi basin, with the wars on the seaboard of New England and Acadia, with the struggle in the valley of the Ohio, and the final contest at Quebec, including the story of English colonial settlement from Massachusetts southward to the Carolinas and Georgia. The interest of Canadian readers will fasten upon the narrative of those memorable seventy years from the return of Frontenac to save the colony from extermination by the Iroquois to the fateful close of the French régime, with the fall of Quebec and the cession to Britain. The history comprised within this era was, as we know, shaped by events in Europe, and by the essentially different colonising method of the two races which contended for the prize of empire in the New World. This is well brought out by Mr. Davis, in his closing remarks in the opening chapter on "Canada and Louisiana," perhaps the most thoughtful, though not the most interesting contribution, to the present volume. Mr. Smith's chapter on the "Struggle in Acadia and Cape Breton" is a meagre one, though its deficiencies are more than made up by the editor's very full and most valuable supplement, containing the authorities on the French and Indian wars in New England, with interesting data relating to King Philip's war, King William's war, the New England expeditions against Acadia, the expulsion of the Acadians, and the various operations against Louisburg, Beausejour, etc. No work could well be more thorough than that performed by Mr. Winsor in the additions to this chapter; while the maps, plans, portraits, and other illustrative matter, so plentifully interspersed, complete and round off the service he has so admirably rendered.

The concluding chapter, the work also of the editor, tells the story of the struggle between the two races in the valley of the Ohio, in the waterways into Canada, north of the Hudson, and before Quebec. The introduction to this section glances at the progress of settlement and the extension of trade in the interior of the Continent, and the collisions which came of these movements between the rival nations and their respective Indian allies. Then follow the story of French occupation on the Ohio and the efforts of the colonies on the seaboard to oust them, the Jumonville-Washington incident, Braddock's fateful expedition across the Alleghanies, and the subsequent successes of the colonial arms in the valley. Later on, we have the incidents connected with the projected expedition to Niagara, the surrender of Fort Frontenac, and the loss of French naval supremacy on Lake Ontario. The narrative concludes with an account of the successive movements against Fort William-Henry, Crown Point, and Ticonderoga, on Lakes George and Champlain, with the Indian atrocities that marked them, and the crowning victory on the Plains of Abraham, with the withdrawal of the French arms from the Continent. Here, as elsewhere throughout the work, the appended critical essay on the sources of information is perhaps of most value. No praise can be too high in characterising these portions of the book: the pains taken in collecting the material of all kinds which throw light on the events is simply stupendous; and with the work of the laborious editor, that of printer and engraver is alike worthy of hearty commendation. The limitations of our space compel us to omit all notice of the chapters in the body of the present volume, dealing with the Middle and the Southern Colonies on the seaboard. To these we must refer the reader himself. The thanks of every student and reader of history are due to all concerned in the preparation of this colossal work: it is a monument of labour and research, the dimensions of which few can adequately estimate. Before closing, let us whisper a word of caution to the editor, to beware of allusive writing, which is noticeable in several of the narratives, and which must detract from the interest, if not from the value, of the work in the case of those who are not deeply versed in the history of the Continent. The work aims at being more than a book of reference, though, as a book of reference, we chiefly and highly value it.

A NEW CANADIAN POET.*

THE subjective world seems to be the natural sphere of the young poet. By expressing himself faithfully he will truly express humanity so far as he himself represents it, and so far as he can yet know it. If he venture beyond this limit to declare the subtle workings of the minds of other men, he will probably make grievous mistakes. In such a case it is certain that unless he be the genius of his age his verses will proclaim their artificiality.

A real poem is the poet's soul-child, born from the depths of his being, and breathing and glowing with his own life and passion. Wooden dolls and wooden poems may be bought in all markets, but they do not satisfy us. If the poem is to live for us it must have lived for its author. If we are to feel it he must have felt it.

Most of Mr. Stewart's poems fulfil these conditions in a good measure. They are born not made. There is a living intensity in them, an earnestness and sincerity which speak unequivocally of their spiritual origin.

* Poems, Phillips Stewart. London: Kegan, Paul, Trench and Company; Toronto: Gage and Company.

* Narrative and Critical History of America, edited by Justin Winsor, Librarian of Harvard University. Vol. 5. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin, and Co., Toronto: George Virtue, 1887.