

Residents of the New World have not, generally, been much interested in traditional gossip or antiquarian lore. The occupations and pursuits of the present have been the absorbing themes, rather than the records or legends of the past. It has, however, been the incidents which have transpired in the past, and the personages who have already played their part in the drama of life, that have made history for us, and given the student of to-day materials for the entertaining and profitable study we possess.

Compared with the mother-land our antiquities may seem but the things of yesterday; and the chronicles of the past, in which the denizen of the new world has borne a part, may seem bald and vapid when contrasted with those of the peoples from whom we have sprung. But it must be remembered that the old world is rich in her proud annals as the aggregate of fame's wealth derived from conquest and achievement in such lands as ours, and that the lustre which shines on her history has been lit, in some degree, from the events in which we, too, claim to be proud.

It is not only, however, in connection with events in which the old world prides itself, that we have a past that is worthy of study. Events in the new world move rapidly. Within the compass of a few decades we seem to have crowded the interest of a century's history of the old world. A new world has been opened up; nature has been wrestled with; races have been conquered; tribes subdued; civilization has displaced the rude and primitive; savagery has given place to law; the discoverer has become the pioneer; the pioneer the colonist; and from the colony we have now the nation.

In such conflicts and achievements, and in so great a stride in material and moral progress, it could not fail that much that is rich in association, and stirring in story, should result and become the heritage of the present.

And in so far as the stage upon which all this has been enacted, and upon which so many notable personages have figured—"Toronto of old" is concerned—for it is the perusal of the advance sheets of Dr. Scadding's delightful volume, on the Early Annals of Toronto, which has led us into these reflections—it must be matter for extreme gratification that the capital of the Province will now be made to tell its early story. That so much has been preserved of the early annals of Toronto, and of the social life and settlement of the Province, as we find in this work, will surprise while it delights the reader. Thanks, indeed, to the author, whose unwearied research and many years of zeal and industry have gathered for us the results of such a past. In its faithful and graphic pages times gone by re-appear, and every street is made to tell the story of what once was.

On this page, the tradition of the early settler presents itself; on that, we have a picture of the city's budding life. Here, a glance at the Council Halls of the young Province; there, a sketch of one of its prominent characters. This chapter takes a peep at school life and the famous dominion; that, photographs a gathering for worship. This section gossips about a quaint advertisement; that, amusingly depicts early social manners and customs.

In short, as a continuous panorama of colonial life, from its early up-shootings to its latest developments, the work is of abounding interest even to the stranger; and as a repository of everything eventful

in the early annals of the country, it is all-important to the native reader.

Few memorials or reminiscences, which intimately link the present with the past, have been of so unique a character; and rarely has there been a more important contribution to our national literature. Its speedy publication, we feel safe in saying, will be eagerly sought; and there can be no doubt that, when issued, it will find a place in every library in the country.

The work will be published by Messrs. Adam, Stevenson & Co., of Toronto.

The same publishers have in the press an authorized Canadian reprint of Mr. Goldwin Smith's "Lectures on the Study of History," to be issued shortly in a cheap form. It is hardly necessary to remind our readers that when these Lectures were delivered the author was Regius Professor of Modern History in the University of Oxford. The Rev. Canon Liddon, of St. Paul's, in his recently published Lent Lectures on "Some Elements of Religion," after referring to the author as "a distinguished living layman, who certainly cannot be supposed to have approached" the subject "with any strong ecclesiastical bias," quotes, at some length, "the eloquent and sincere words of Professor Goldwin Smith" (on the unapproachable excellence of the historical Christ), as needing "no recommendation or comment." As a tribute from one of the ablest and most effective preachers in the Anglican communion, we gladly substitute Dr. Liddon's remarks for any eulogy of our own.

There is much "excellent fooling" in "My Little Book," by Salathiel Doles, author of, "Etc., Etc.," (Adam, Stevenson & Co.), and something more than fooling, a spice of good-natured satire. Australian and American humour, seem somewhat akin; and yet our author has managed to strike out an original path for himself. Doles does not entrap his readers by bizarre orthography; his fun is dressed, for the most part, in unexceptionable English; and to compare styles, his is a sort of cross between Mark Twain at his best and "The Autocrat of the Breakfast-table," without his professorial stilts. The inimitable Pat, the Men who have Risen, Jagg, the Australian Boswell and Joe Throttleby, are amongst the best of the many funny sketches in the "Little Book."

Messrs. A. & C. Black are bringing out yet another edition of the "Waverley Novels." It is to be a pocket edition, 16mo. in size, comprised in 25 volumes, and to sell in Canada at 45 cents a volume, in cloth binding. The same publishers have published a new edition of Lord Cockburn's "Memorials of his Time," and "Life of Francis Jeffrey," in 2 vols., at \$3. They have been out of print for some years. Now, no doubt, there will be a revival of their sale.

The joint work of Blanchard Jerrold and Gustave Doré—"London; a Pilgrimage," is now complete. It forms a handsome volume, illustrated by nearly 200 engravings from Doré's drawings—though very Frenchy in their character. A much more natural work, in the way of London illustration, we should say, and one which will be largely subscribed for, is the new publication of Messrs. Cassell—"Old and New London," by Walter Thornbury. The editor is well fitted for his task, as his book, "A Tour round England," shows us, and the publishers have the amplest facilities for accurately and skilfully embellishing the book.