

LITERARY NOTES.

ANNETTE, THE MISSIVE SPY: A Heroine of the North-West Rebellion. By Edmund Collins, Toronto: Ross Publishing Company.

Among all the excellent books which have been issued by the Ross Publishing Co., we have not had for many a long day anything so attractive as the little volume before us. Annette, the heroine, is one of those bright refreshing characters whose individuality stands out from the pages of the book like the flashing gold amid a mass of incongruous base metal. Not that all the other characters are either incongruous or base, but Annette is invested with such a vital personality, she is so singularly distinct, so intensely vivid and so lovable that the reader intuitively finds himself judging every one harshly or approvingly by the manner in which they treat the heroine. The other characters introduced are Julie, Annette's maid; Edmund Stephens, Annette's lover; Louis Biel, the late rebel chief; and a number of the officers in command of the forces which took part in the late expedition against the insurgents. Captain Beaver is evidently intended for Col. Oiler, and the Indian Chief, Little Poplar, is quite clearly meant for Poundmaker, but we have outgelled our brain in a vain endeavor to discover who on earth, the "staroohy" Captain Unworthy is. Mr. Collins has written much excellent romance but in this latest effort he has given us something which transcends even his best work. The story is admirably told, it is strong, human and life-like. There is no straining after effect, for the style is well controlled and quite unaffected. The scenes and incidents are numerous and change swiftly, carrying the captivated reader impetuously forward to the climax. No one can read the book without being deeply stirred by the heroic elements involved on both sides in the late rebellion, but it is quite clear that the author regards Colonel Denison as an ideal soldier, an officer of superior judgment, good executive capacity and great discernment. We would have wished, had space allowed, to give a few specimens of the charming descriptions which the work contains, but we will have to content ourselves with a single one relating to the wonderful Auroral spectacle:—

"In the south the light was soft, and seemed unconnected with that of the east and north. The whole would remain for a few seconds quiescent, save for some slight, erratic pulsations, but all would at once mysteriously undulate and quiver from end to end. It seemed at such times like a mighty cloth woven of the finest and softest fleec, being violently shaken at both ends by invisible hands. But the most curious part of the phenomena was the noise, like the cracking of innumerable whips, which accompanied the pulsations in the auroral flame. The serrations were produced in the valleys, among the bluffs, and far out over the face of the prairie. To lend terror to the stupendous and awful beauty of the scene, a ball of fire came out of the southern sky, passed slowly across the belt of agitated flame and disappeared over the crest of a distant hill. Above, the heavy masses of auroral cloud now began to assume the shape of a mighty umbrella, the enormous ribs of weird light forming in an apex above the heads of the party, and radiating towards all points of the compass. Sometimes these ribs would all shake, and then blend; but they would speedily rearray themselves in perfect and majestic symmetry. It was a most weirdly beautiful sight, riding along the still and boundless prairie, when the merry dancing ceased for a moment to see this stupendous dome of fluff, ghost-like light suspended over their heads. For an hour they continued looking upon it; upon the yellow of the level prairie, and the yellow and gloom of the knolls and hollows. Then there was a universal flash so sudden as to be terrible; then a darkness equally as sudden. Not the faintest glow was anywhere in all the wide heave. It seemed as if God had blown out the mysterious light."

H. M. HUNT.

Be not slow in common and usual acts of devotion and quick at singularities; but having first done what thou art bound to, proceed to the extraordinaries of religion as you see cause.

few of them that shone at the examination desk. But what happened when Mr. Ross was a lad, is one thing; what he is now, as a scholar, as an educationist, and as the administrator of our great and thorough educational system, is another thing; and that with which the country is alone concerned. It is Hon. George W. Ross who is Minister of Education; not a lad who obtains or does not obtain a certain certificate of license. We trust the testimony of inspectors, and of capable masters, as to Mr. Ross's capabilities in preference to a person who reasons without knowledge and writes like a cad. There is a story told that in a school competition Charles Dickens failed to take the prize, though the subject was a "flottious narrative." That would be a strong reason in the mouth of a person who avers his ignorance in the *Mail* for ascribing to "David Copperfield," and all the other books from the pen of Charles Dickens.

Mr. McMullen, M. P., is the gentleman of the House of Commons who asks all the small questions. One might not be surprised to find upon the order file a slip in Mr. McMullen's hand-writing praying that His Excellency "do order to be laid before this House all papers relating to the disappearance, from the public grounds, last year, of a large gardener's spade." One paper declares that during the taking of the votes on the Laundry resolution Mr. McMullen retired to the woods. It gives him, generally, a bad character although he is a Reformer, and a supporter of Mr. Blake. It describes him as "effensively personal," and declares that his references are "gross." Another paper calls him a "narrow-souled, ignorant note-shaver," a man who "would skin a . . . for his hide and tallow;" and it says that he "runs a poisonous little grocery store." It goes further and says that "he is too mean to pay a decent price for his board; and goes trying to beat down the figures of the coffee-house keeper." This same malignant and contemptible personal newspaper, by way of "revealing the true character of this low-souled creature" says that "he is too mean to keep himself warm;" and that "he has often lived in his room a whole day on ten or fifteen cents' worth of provisions." Mr. McMullen we do not believe guilty of all this; nor is it the function of decent journalism to give it to the world.

We regret to hear of the serious illness, at Ottawa, of Dr. Tachs, Deputy Minister of Agriculture. His brother, the Archbishop of St. Boniface, has been telegraphed for. For a long time he has been in delicate health.

The *Shelburne Free Press* has just completed the first eleven years of a vigorous and successful existence. The *Free Press* is ably conducted, and an ideal local newspaper. We are glad to know that Shelburne and community thoroughly appreciate the services of their local journal as evinced by the generous support given both in advertising and in the large and increasing circulation.

The Indians, as we surmised when all the rumors were abroad, have been found that they will remain peaceful and contented. — Speech by Pere

testimony.
alm has presented His Hol-
with a golden-Cross
red tool, how much better would
be able to expend the money
his plodding

Blair Government has been sustained. A very feeble article upon this election appeared lately in the *Globe*, the argument of which was that the triumph of Mr. Blair was the triumph of the Liberals in that province. This is not true at all. Federal politics have little or no weight in determining an election in New Brunswick; and the Grit and Tory line has never been drawn yet in the Legislature.

The Liberal Temperance people have besought the license commissioners to permit the sale of lager beer on the Island, at Toronto, this summer.

The visit of the great sensational preacher, the Rev. Sam Jones, is looked forward to with keen interest.

Our marine patrol-police have prevented several American fishing schooners from taking bait within the prohibited limits. But the schooners can sail away and get bait somewhere else on the coast. It would take a hundred preventive vessels for the one that we possess to prevent the Americans from taking either fish or bait if they were disposed to persevere in such dishonest and dishonorable work.

Chicago is a veritable city of flame. It has just had an \$800,000 fire. If the scourge continues we shall not be able to say of it as Matthew Arnold did a few months ago that "it is too boastly prosperous."

Oscar Wilde thinks it is a great pity that certain stretches of flat, marshy, and cheerless country through which he rode in America were not "clad with lilies and sun-lowers."

Some enterprising journalist circulated the story recently that Mr. Gladstone was about to join the Catholic Church. The grand old man at once arose and said that he wasn't. We do believe that if some one said that Mr. Gladstone was in the habit of prowling about during dark nights robbing hen-roosts, he would indignantly deny the accusation.

The Canadian branch of the Imperial Federation League held a meeting in Ottawa on Saturday. Mr. Dalton McCarthy, M. P., was chairman, and among the gentlemen present were Messrs. C'Brien, Allen, Tyrwhitt, Macmillan (Middlesex), McNeill, Baker, and Townshend, members of the House of Commons. Mr. J. G. Beauriot acted as secretary. The chief object of the meeting was to make arrangements for the mass meeting to be held in Toronto about the 27th of the present month. It was decided that Sir Alexander Galt should be the principal speaker at the Toronto meeting, with Sir Adams Archibald, Mr. McCarthy, Professor Clark, Mr. George Hague, Mr. Walter Shanly, M. P., Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, and others as movers and seconders of resolutions. Sir Alexander Galt, and Messrs. Peter Redpath and R. R. Dobell were appointed to represent the Canadian branch on the Committee of the General League in London and Messrs. Henry Lyman, Dr. Johnson, Archd. McGoetz, Montreal; G. A. Parkin, of Fredericton; and Dalton McCarthy, and A. Coburn, of Toronto, were chosen to represent Canada at the general meeting which comes off in London on 2nd and 3rd of July next. Among the recommendations which it is proposed to make at the meeting will be the adoption of a penny postage system for Great Britain and the Colonies; the establishment of closer commercial relations between Great Britain and her colonies, giving the Colonies an advantage over foreign States in British markets; and the adoption of a system of mutual as-

stance between the Colonies and the Mother Country in case of war. A resolution expressing deep regret at the death of the late Hon. W. E. Forster was adopted.

The Mayors of Toronto and Parkdale have commenced a correspondence on the annexation question.

The Marquis of Lorne and Princess Louise will return to London next week from a Italy.

The Marquis of Ripon supported Mr. Gladstone's Irish policy in his address at Manchester.

Justin McCarthy says the feeling in favour of Mr. Gladstone's measure is distinctly improving.

Hamilton's assessment return shows a population of 41,260.

SOBER MOMENTS.

The fear of man will make us hide sin, but the fear of the Lord will make us hate it.

The serene, silent beauty of a holy life is the most powerful influence in the world next to the might of the Spirit of God.

We have too many resolutions and too little action. The Acts of the Apostles is one of the books of the New Testament. Their resolutions have not reached us.

Faithful prayer always implies correlative exertion; and no man can ask honestly and hopefully to be delivered from temptation unless he has himself honestly and firmly determined to do the best he can to keep out of it. — [Ruskin.]

There may be a furlough from our customary work; there can never be any lawful vacation from doing good. There may be change of place and scene and fellowship. There must be none in the spirit of self-sacrificing beneficence. — [A. L. Stone, D. D.]

The practical life of the Christian comprehends three distinct elements. We have to do the will of God in our business; this is working. We have to oppose our sin and resist temptation; this is fighting. We have to endure with cheerfulness and submission whatever cross the Lord Jesus lays upon us; this is suffering.

Sin is decifical; we know this by experience. We see it raise a great barrier between the soul and God; we see it hide God's countenance and shut away from our life every desire that is pure and noble and lovely and heavenly, and leave us amid the pollutions of evil, a slave to habits that speak of shame, of corruption, of moral disease and ultimately of a moral death.

Some are being led gently by soft flowing streams, and under the pleasant shadow of the trees or through gardens where rich fruits hang ripely and the roses bloom; while others are driven up the misty mountains among rugged rocks, or across the stormy billows of the sea toward unknown shores. But what matters it, if God be our leader and Christ our guide.

Where you are, whatever your station, there, and in that station, serve God. Establish in your own heart the principles of a Christian life and in your home the atmosphere of a Christian household. Be regular in your habits of prayer, search the Scriptures daily, resist temptation courageously and do good gladly.

"Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for him." In Hebrew, be silent to God and let him mould thee to the right shape. Whosoever can earnestly, from the heart, humble himself before God and acquiesce in His chastening has already won the victory. David, for instance, was a wonderfully gifted man, and he had to be ploughed and crushed. But such a man is dear to God. — [Martin Luther.]

Music and Drama.

The wonderful play of "Fedora" will be produced for the first time in Canada at the Grand next week. There will be four performances, three nights and Wednesday matinee. The company to present it here is the same that has been playing it the past three seasons in the States, and came direct from the Star-theater, New York.