

in English. To the young student and teacher doing some original reading or making additions to a library it is simply invaluable.

CANADA UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF LORD LORNE, by J. E. Collins, author of "The Life and Times of Sir John A. Macdonald, K. C. B., etc." 1 vol. 8vo. Toronto: Rose Publishing Co.

MR. COLLINS'S new book is characterized alike by great strength and great weakness. His work, in the present instance, is unequal, and what is sure to be prejudicial to him, he seems at times to write under the influence of what we may euphemistically call too exuberant animal spirits. His style has colour, has blood in it; but he appears not to be able always to surmount his own preferences and prejudices; for at times he allows his likings to carry him to the point of excessive laudation, and at others to stud his book with unrestrained, and sometimes acrid, comment. A license of criticism, lacking in judiciousness and prolific of biting power, generally defeats its own ends and destroys faith in the judgment of him who so writes. To this cause, we apprehend, is due either the silence of the press or the want of heartiness in noticing a work which, in many respects, is eminently worthy of notice, and has in it much of admirable writing, of usually sound criticism, and of laborious, painstaking compilation. Party predilections, unhappily, are too apt to colour the notices of the press in reviewing works of a political character; and, in the case even of our metropolitan journals, it has happened that criticism has been influenced by personal animosity. This is to be reprehended, for it is an injustice to literature in general and a cruel wrong to native letters. Canadian literature stands in need, not of the stogging of an irate reviewer, but of the calm, dignified, and helpful aid of a discriminating but kindly criticism.

Mr. Collins' new book has this further disadvantage, that it deals with contemporary events; and it is confessedly difficult to see these in their proper perspective, and hard to write about them without provoking comment. Particularly is this the case when you have an author who has his own way of

looking at things, and has the courage to say what he thinks. It is this, however, that gives to the present volume its spice and interest, and, while dealing with things that as yet cannot have passed from the public memory, places them in a specially new and fresh light.

The volume is divided into chapters; the first dealing with the arrival in Canada of Lord Lorne and the Princess Louise, a section of the work which has some spirited writing; and the second, with the Letellier affair, which, though it had broken out under the administration of the previous Governor-General, came to be officially dealt with by Lord Lorne. Chapters three to seven discuss the political and social events of the years 1880-'83, in which occur some capital bits of portraiture and clever political writing; chapter eight with their Excellencies' private and social record; chapter nine with literature and the Royal Society; and chapter ten with Canadian sports, scenery and pictures. In these several chapters the reader will get an intelligent, a forceful, and generally adequate idea of the trend of Canadian events, at a period of no little national interest; while he will have gathered up for future reference much material illustrative of present-day annals which he will be glad to find at hand when the occasion calls for historic research. With the reservation already made, Canadian history has, in the present volume, had some important chapters added to it which those who keep themselves *au courant* with native thought will not omit to read and find pleasure and profit in reading. In the chapter on Canadian sports and scenery, Mr. Collins, in our opinion, appears at his best, for whatever be his political sagacity his sympathy with nature is undoubted, and his descriptions of her varying moods and charms are delightful. In the appendix much interesting reading will be found in Lord Lorne's addresses on art, education, and kindred topics, which add greatly to the value of the book, and leave on the reader's mind a favourable impression of His Excellency's administration.

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