

very evidently swayed by his Imperial Federationist predilection. He was swayed by the same predilection in devoting a whole chapter to the Canadian Pacific Railway. But in neither case is one greatly inclined to decry this disproportion. If it is important for the politician to know that it is on Canadian soil that the two great coaling stations on the eastern and western coasts of the continent are to be found, it is no less important for the intending settler in the North-West to know that "the whole great central prairie region of North-Western Canada is encompassed by accessible deposits of fairly good coal," and to be assured of it in some detail. And if a knowledge of the Canadian Pacific Railway as a military route and as the consolidator of otherwise disconnected provinces is essential to a statesman, it is equally essential to the emigrant to know what areas are by it opened up to settlement.

But thirdly and chiefly, Mr. Parkin's book is important because it is a distinct testimonial to Canada's fitness for immigration and investment. What Canada wants is men and money. Give her these, the two raw materials of progress, the warp and woof of the fabric of civilization, and her future is assured. He surely would be a pessimist of the pessimists who believed that the filling up of our cultivable areas and the exploitation of our natural resources would send us backwards rather than forwards along the path of progress. We may have problems, racial, religious, fiscal. We may suffer from such hindrances to rapid growth and expansion as lack of geographical compactness and political unity, from wintry severity, from contiguity to a huge and, though in some ways attractive, in others inimical, neighbour. We may possess internal discords and forces centrifugal. Democracy may here and there show its not too intelligent head; and the recklessness and haste inherent in a young and healthy nation may cause older and wiser heads to shake. But none of these complex conditions need be a difficulty insurmountable. Perhaps because of the very complexity of her conditions Canada will thrive. Was not Great Britain's youth a youth of conditions apparently the most adverse? The triple Anglian, Saxon, and Jutish ancestry scarcely pointed to a common patriotism. An internecine heptarchy was hardly a forecast for a unified imperial sway which now girdles the globe. Subjection to the Norman with his feudal system was not exactly what one would have premised as the fitting seed-field for parliamentary government. But through such apparent impediments to victory, Britain emerged victorious. Well, Canada is of British parentage. Given, I say, men and money, and Canada's future is assured, and I know of few books better fitted than Mr. Parkin's to bring to Canada both men and money. Not that he minimizes the hardships that confront the settler or the hazards that lie in the path of the investor: "Canada is not a 'paradise' for the working man," he says; "homes have in almost all cases been won by steady, unflinching energy;" "for men without backbone the country is not to be recommended;" "strenuous work is the distinctive note of Canadian life;" and for the wealthier classes he insists upon "a fair degree of flexibility," with "simple habits and a liking for country life."

Here and there, however, it must in honesty be said that Mr. Parkin seems to have taken a somewhat roseate view of one or two of our peculiar problems. The French-Canadian Question he admits is "the crux of politics in the Dominion," but he does not perhaps regard it quite so seriously as he might. He thinks "it does not present so many difficulties or arouse such bitter animosities as does the Irish question in Britain." But Quebec forms a far larger factor in the integrity of the Dominion than does Ireland in that of the United Kingdom. Besides, the French-Canadian Question has not come to a head—may it never! Mr. Parkin perhaps glosses over, too, such generally admitted facts as the possibilities of inter-provincial friction, the leakage into the United States, the centralizing trend of the rural population, the false channel into which much labour is diverted by our system of education, and the sometimes not quite immaculate methods of our politicians. However, upon such questions and upon Mr. Parkin's view of them perhaps few persons will wholly agree. It is far more important to know that on the great question upon which all true Canadians should agree, what he himself calls "the splendid opportunities which lie before them if they would but throw

themselves more heartily into the tide of Canadian progress," Mr. Parkin has written a book for which all true Canadians owe him truest thanks.

ARNOLD HAULTAIN.

Recent Fiction.*

WE have here half a dozen books of Canadian authors, and, taking them as a whole, Canada has no reason to be ashamed of these its representatives in the world of fiction. One or two of the books are quite worthy to rank among the best works of fiction recently published.

We noticed, a short time ago, "The Devil's Playground," by John Mackie, a book which has been very favourably received by both the English and Canadian press, and which has already reached a second edition. We have now from the same author "Sinners Twain: A Romance of the Great Lone Land." It shows a distinct advance on his first book. The plot is better constructed, and the story interesting in itself and interestingly told. The scene is laid in the Canadian North-West, not far from the frontier of the United States. Here, on the lonely prairie, some twenty miles distant from their nearest neighbour, live Gabriel St. Denis and his daughter Marie, with their attendant, an old half-breed woman. It is in the days of prohibition in the Territories and Gabriel occasionally smuggles a cargo of liquor across the lines. His daughter lives in terror lest he should be caught in the act, for he is known to be under suspicion. The story opens just as he sets out on one of these smuggling expeditions. A party of the North-West Mounted Police, consisting of an Inspector, a cad of the first water, a sergeant, Harry Yorke, and a private, Dick Townley, with a half-breed scout, suspecting his intentions, take up their quarters in his house during his absence. Yorke is already acquainted with Marie, and half in love with her, so his situation is not pleasant, and is rendered still less so by the ungentlemanly behaviour of the officer in command of the party. The Inspector, however, is taught his place by the two women. Yorke's feelings toward Marie rapidly develop and the inevitable conflict between love and duty soon comes. Yorke, with whom all our sympathies are engaged, connives at the girl's escape from the house to give warning to her father. There is an exciting chase, but Marie succeeds in meeting her father and the police are foiled in their plans. Yorke, for his breach of duty, is put on his trial, and degraded to the ranks, but he obtains his reward in the orthodox way. The character drawing in the book is excellent, each actor in the story stands out clearly. There is plenty of humour to, chiefly in the scenes where the bright harum scarum young private and the scout made fun with their superior officer without giving him the opportunity, for which he is always on the look out, of charging them with want of respect or failure in duty.

Miss Dougall, by her previous works, has already proved her ability, and her new book, "The Mermaid," will add to her growing reputation. It is a striking story, perhaps somewhat improbable and out of the way in plot, though this one does not feel while reading it. As to the plot itself we are not going to say anything more. It would not be fair, but we recommend our readers to read the book through and not to look at the end until they get there. They will find it sufficiently exciting. The events of the story take place partly in Prince Edward Island and partly in one of the Magdalen Islands. The descriptions of natural scenery are very able and the author seems to penetrate into the spirit of the scenery in a remarkable manner. She succeeds, too, in bringing before the reader very vividly the life of the

* "Sinners Twain: A Romance of the Great Lone Land." By John Mackie. Unwin's Colonial Library. London: T. Fisher Unwin.

"The Mermaid." A Love Tale. By L. Dougall. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

"Miss Dixie: A Romance of the Provinces." By Stanford Eveleth. Toronto: William Briggs.

"The Heir of Fairmount Grange." By Agnes Maule Machar. London: Digby, Long & Co. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co. Price \$1.25.

"G. Dwyer, K.W." By Paul Tsyr. Lovell's Canadian Author's Series. Montreal: John Lovell & Son. Price 30 cents.

"Curious Facts." By Sparham Sheldrake (Sigma). Toronto: Williamson & Co.