

Not the least valuable contents of the volume are the texts of the written constitutions of the Argentine Republic, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Prussia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States and Venezuela. Among the maps is one of American discovery and settlement (p. 45) which gives the dates of the foundation of Quebec, Louisbourg, Plymouth and other historic places in America. Like the map in Hinsdale's "Old Northwest," the date of the settlement of Montreal is given as 1711, whereas nothing came of Champlain's visit in that year, and Canadian historians all concur in considering M. de Maisonneuve the actual founder, since he erected the fort for the protection of the first colony which he took there in 1642. It may also be added that while the fortress of Louisbourg was not commenced until 1720, the French established their settlement and government at that port in 1713, when they gave up Plaisance to the English.

When the Royal Society of Canada, at its general meeting in 1893, elected Archbishop O'Brien, of Halifax, one of the Fellows of the Section of English Literature, History and Archæology, it was a tribute only due to a learned prelate of the Roman Catholic Church who, for years, had devoted his leisure moments, snatched from the engrossing duties of his high calling, to meritorious contributions in prose and poetry to the literature of this young Dominion. No fact perhaps more clearly shows the catholicity in a secular sense of this society than the election of this divine, simultaneously with that of the Rev. Dr. John Campbell, the able archæologist and ethnologist of Montreal, whose liberal opinions on moot questions of biblical lore have evoked the bitter antagonism of an important and strictly sectarian section of the Presbyterian Church. It is well for the social and intellectual life of Canada that there are places and times where and when men of literary accomplishments can meet on a common platform and lay aside the theological controversies which, since the world was young, have had so often a narrowing tendency and have never stimulated the most generous impulses of our weak human nature.

But though these concluding words are by way of parenthesis they have an indirect bearing on the Memoirs (2) before us since they are not written by any means in the spirit of a bigoted divine always anxious to assert claims for his own church above all others. While keeping steadily in view the high aim and character of the zealous missionary who is the subject of the biography, the Archbishop shows throughout the liberality and culture of an historical student who can understand the influence of a man like Dr. Burke, in the early times of our country, not merely on the religious life, but on the social and intellectual development of the people. The subject of this book arrived at Quebec in the summer of 1786, and from that time for thirty-four years carried on his ministrations over vast tracts of the United States, Canada and Nova Scotia. Reading this lucid account of his life we can well agree with the author that "although the subject of these Memoirs was not by birth a Canadian, yet he was one by adoption; by long years of active service for the public good and by his

(2) Memoirs of Rt. Rev. Edmund Burke, Bishop of Zion, First Vicar-Apostolic of Nova Scotia. By Cornelius O'Brien, D.D., Archbishop of Halifax. Ottawa: Thoburn & Co., 1893. 12mo., pp. ii-154. Illustrated.

love of, and faith in, what his keen foresight gave him a calm and settled assurance, would be a great country." The archives of Quebec, of Halifax, and of the Propaganda, Rome, have been laid under contribution, and have "yielded a rich return," as the author truly says, "in the shape of letters, written by Dr. Burke during the thirty-four years of his life in Canada." Dr. Burke passed some eight years in Quebec where he was connected with the Seminary as Professor of Philosophy and Mathematics, of which he was a profound scholar. In 1794 he went on a distant mission to the wilderness country watered by the western lakes. He was the first English-speaking priest to minister in Ohio, as later he was the first in Western New York. Writing from Miami, now known as Maumee City, Ohio, on the 2nd February, 1795, he tells us: "This is the last and most distant parish inhabited by Catholics on earth. In it is neither law, justice nor subjection; you never meet a man, either Indian or Canadian, without his gun in his hand and his knife at his breast. The finest climate in the world, and the most fertile lands, but no industry." Now the scene of this old mission of a century ago is in the midst of one of the most prosperous, populous and busy districts of the continent. Later on, he worked in the Province of Ontario. Without doubt "he has the honour of being the apostle of English-speaking Ontario, and the founder of its oldest missions." It would have been interesting had his biographer given us some account of his impressions of the young Province, as we suppose he must have left such letters behind him.

The Archbishop gives many interesting facts relating to the origin and development of the Roman Catholic Church in Acadia, as necessary to an intelligent account of the Vicar-Apostolic's career in the Province. It was in 1801 that Father Burke came to Halifax, where he lived for a quarter of a century, a faithful spiritual guide of the Irish, Scotch and Acadians who received "more loving care and attention than they had ever experienced in their eventful past." The greater part of the Memoirs is devoted to the record of his labours during this period. As late as 1815 it appears that although there were a large number of Catholics in Nova Scotia, there were only ten or eleven priests, and not even one Catholic school; but before the energetic and discreet Bishop died he had the gratification of finding his church on a prosperous foundation. His biographer tells us that Bishop Burke succeeded in winning the sincere and cordial friendship of the Duke of Kent, father of the present Queen, and also of every military and naval officer "who successively commanded in British America" for twenty years.

The book contains the print of an old likeness of Bishop Burke in his apostolic vestments and mitre, as well as sketches of St. Mary's Cathedral and the glebe house as originally projected by the prelate—two old buildings which have since given place to the stately and commodious edifices, of which illustrations are also presented. The book, however, is defective in one important particular, which, in a measure, lessens its value for the student who has to consult it for historical material. It has no index, or table of contents. An author, when guilty of such omissions now-a-days, should be fined by all historical readers of these busy times, when there are so many books to consult on any subject, and when facili-

ties for reference should be made as easy as possible.

If an industrious reader were to take the trouble of collecting all the poems, essays and books that have been written on the fair country which Longfellow's great poem has immortalized, we would be surprised at both the number and variety which could fill a bookcase of more than ordinary capacity. Every tourist who passes through the Acadian valley so famous in song and story, evidently feels it an imperative duty to embalm his or her thoughts and impressions, and give them at some time or other to the world, not always perhaps with as pleasing results as the American poet reached without having even seen the fair meadows and streams beyond which great Blomidon rises amid the tides of the restless basin of Minas. Still we suppose that, while none of us can ever weary of the record of woman's love and devotion, while one touch of nature ever makes the whole world kin, we shall continue to hear of the lovely country where the spirit of the Acadian maiden ever seems to hover, to give a certain charm and life to the fair landscape. All this goes to prove that it is, after all, the poetry, intimately connected with humanity, with its affections, its sufferings, its joys, its aspirations, its many attributes—that is most enduring—far more so than the poems of pure imagination or of scenery, however attractive. The poetic genius of a Wordsworth, describing the beauty of lake and stream and mountain, may satisfy our intellectual instincts but can never reach our hearts like the story of an Evangeline, ever associated with the meadows of Grand Pre.

This pretty little volume (3) now before us, tastefully bound in cloth, full of apt illustrations, and written naturally without any sentimental effort, is one of the latest wanderers into a well trodden field of literature. It is a book to take with us on a summer's day, say, to the banks of the basin of Annapolis, or under the willows of Grand Pre, since it will help us to recall the past which the author touches with a gentle hand and simple fidelity. She first landed at the pleasant, well kept town of Yarmouth, with its house windows full of great clusters of pelargoniums, and its streets beautiful with its walls of green hawthorn, recalling the lanes of far-off England. She then visited the Clare settlements, Annapolis, Grand Pre and other places full of memories of the old Acadians. She has a pleasant account of her visit to Metaghan, where she found an interesting settlement of the French people, the descendants of the Acadians who returned from exile and settled in Clare and other parts of Western Nova Scotia. Here is a description of a street in this quaint old town:

"The street at Metaghan is lined with houses for a distance of perhaps a mile. Some are old and weather-beaten, but many are trim cottages with porches and bay windows, and pretty bits of garden in front. Sitting at the wide front windows of the public sitting-room at the hotel, one could see across the way the neatest of white cottages with piazza, bay-windows, and the characteristic roof window of the provinces, known as the 'A' window. In its white fenced garden stood tall hollyhocks of rich wine colour. Beyond the cottage lay the bay, obscured often by rain and mist."

(3) Through Evangeline's Country. By Jeanette A. Grant. Illustrated. Boston: Joseph Knight Co., 1894. Small 8vo. pp. x plus 100.