

ever issued. It is in three handsome volumes, uniform with Greg's Creed of Christendom and a Modern Symposium. The publishers have placed the price at a low figure, in order that copies of this famous work may find a place in every well-selected library in Canada.

If Dr. Holmes were not a brilliant essayist and a most charming poet, he would still be a delightful biographer. His recent *Memoir of John Lothrop Motley*,* the eminent historian of the Netherlands, is a conscientious and generous study of that able man. In it Dr. Holmes has done for Motley what Mr. Pierce has, in a measure, done for Charles Sumner. He presents the subject of his biography in a most effective and true light, and the social, professional, and political part of his career is described with great warmth and power. Dr. Holmes knew Motley intimately for many years. He knew him at College when a boy, and during the last twenty or twenty-five years of their lives, the intimacy formed in youthhood ripened into friendship of the most marked and strongest kind. In common with other distinguished Americans, the author of this *Memoir* felt that the recall of Mr. Motley from England in November, 1870, was an indefensible outrage, a wholly unjustifiable proceeding and an action of the most contemptible character. And Dr. Holmes has found no reason to change his mind since then. In the volume before us this portion of the subject is treated in a masterly and scathing manner. The fickle Government then in power is denounced in terms of great bitterness, and its littleness and narrow-minded prejudices are displayed in a way which will send its memory down to well-deserved contempt. The biographer deals with his subject in an admirable spirit. He

has no revengeful feelings. He has no strong political predilections to advance. He does not strike with a bludgeon, but with the weapon which he knows how to use so well, he lays bare the hypocrisy of the Cabinet at Washington, and in a trenchant sentence or two he disposes of the miserable and petty jealousy which led to the recall of one of the ablest ministers who had ever represented his country at the English Court of St. James. It is now a well-known fact that Mr. Motley owed his removal from office to the childish jealousy which existed at the capital between President Grant's Cabinet and Senator Sumner—America's greatest statesman since Henry Clay. Achilles was invulnerable save in the heel. Charles Sumner was invulnerable save in the heart. The Government knew of the warm love which the two great men of the nation bore to each other, and when General Grant quarrelled with Sumner about the Treaty of San Domingo, he aimed a direct blow at the statesman's heart, and the biographer of John of Barneveld was dismissed in the thoroughly cold-blooded manner in which these things are oftentimes done. Of course, there was an excuse urged by the Government for its action, but the flimsy pretext had been disposed of long before the letter asking Mr. Motley to resign had been written and despatched, and was only revived again when the Treaty question came up and Sumner refused to yield his point. The coincidence was too great and the pretentious excuse availed little. The insult hastened Sumner's death, and preyed upon and rankled in the sensitive mind of the historian. In placing on record the truth of this disgraceful proceeding, Dr. Holmes has paid a generous tribute to the memory of his dead friend as well as presented to all peoples a splendid contribution to the political history of the United States. Many will thank him for this. His own great name will add tremendous

* *John Lothrop Motley. A Memoir.* By DR. OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES. Boston: Houghton, Osgood & Co. Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson.