

LITERARY NOTES.

THE day, we feel assured, has passed by when to launch a creditable and worthy enterprise in Canadian serial literature was to commit to the waters a bark that was sure to founder. Disastrous, indeed, has been the history of native literary ventures in times past, but under the vigorous and helpful influences of the nationality which has come of Confederation, we are hopeful of the future, nay, of the present, of literary projects and journalistic undertakings. No more hopeful sign could be afforded in this respect than to find that, in spite of failure and disappointment in the past, new attempts are ever being made to occupy the fields open to the talent and culture which Canada can so ably fill. Especially timely in the new attempt made, and one that has already achieved success, to supply an organ of independent and critical thought in the domain of politics and literature. The establishment in Toronto of *The Nation*, a journal "devoted to national politics, national culture and national progress," is a matter for hearty and sincere congratulation, and the more so when we see the elevated tone and the manly independence which characterize the writing appearing in its pages. Undertaken by those admirably fitted to conduct it, possessed of large experience, and, moreover, substantially endowed with capital, the prospects of the new journal are of the most gratifying character. We look to it to fill an important position in weekly journalism, giving tone to the political discussions of the time, and itself free from and unbiassed by the interests of either individuals or parties.

Messrs. Jas. Adam & Co., Subscription Book publishers, have just issued a portly volume from the pen of the late editor of "The Canada Farmer," Mr. C. E. Whitcombe, entitled "The Canadian Farmer's Manual of Agriculture—the Principles and Practice of Mixed Husbandry as adapted to Canadian soils and climate." The volume is very attractively got up, is profusely illustrated, and must prove of great service to the native agriculturist. It is written in clear and simple language, free as much as possible from technical phrases, and conveys a perfect library of matter in the interest of rural labour.

We welcome with pleasure the issue of a new and serviceable map of Ontario, with the imprimatur of Messrs. Jas. Campbell & Son. It is attrac-

tive in appearance, legible and accurate in its enumeration of localities, and withal cheap and handy for the pocket.

The new issues from the press of Messrs. Hunter, Rose & Co., embrace a work of fiction from the pen of Anthony Trollope, entitled "Lady Anna," which has just been completed in the *Fortnightly Review*, and a volume of Canadian poetry—a collection of lyrics and miscellaneous poems, by Mr. Alex. McLachlan, of Erin. There is a good deal of vigorous writing in the latter, and much that should be stamped as true poetry, though the versification is not always up to the standard that a critical taste would exact.

Mr. Whitaker, editor of the London *Bookseller*, has in preparation a work which will be indispensable to book *connoisseurs*, viz.: "A Reference Catalogue of Current Literature, containing the full titles of works now in print and on sale by the various publishers in the United Kingdom." The work will make an octavo volume of about 3000 pages, and is to be issued at a nominal price.

Messrs. Scribner, Armstrong & Co. make the important announcement that they have a new and "Popular History of the United States" in preparation. The work is to be under the editorial supervision of the Poet Bryant; and, we understand, it is to be profusely illustrated and to consist of some three octavo volumes. The period embraced in the work is from that of the earliest authentic history of the Western Continent to the close of the first century of American Independence.

A series of favourite authors, to be called "Little Classics," is about to be brought out by the Messrs. Osgood, of Boston. The first of the issue is to be called "Exiles," and will embrace a number of short *brochures* which have earned notoriety, but which from their little bulk are apt to be exiles from the language. A number of volumes are already projected and will shortly appear.

Admirers of the writings of George Eliot, the talented authoress of "Adam Bede," will be glad to know that a collection of poetry from her pen is about to appear. The title of the collection will be "A Legend of Jubal and other Poems," and we believe arrangements are being made for a Canadian edition of the volume to be undertaken by Messrs. Adam, Stevenson & Co.