

THE CANADIAN METHODIST MAGAZINE.

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THE LAST FORTY YEARS.

CANADA SINCE THE UNION OF 1841.*

III.

WE have already noted, as one of the most striking features of Mr. Dent's history, the admirable pen-portraits of public persons. One of the most discriminative of these is that of Lord Elgin. We have space for only its introductory paragraphs:—

“James Bruce, eighth Earl of Elgin and twelfth Earl of Kincardine, in the peerage of Scotland; afterwards first Baron Elgin, of Elgin, in the peerage of the United Kingdom; enjoyed the distinction of having sprung from one of the royal houses of Scotland—the historic house which numbers among its representatives the hero of Bannockburn. The chronicles of the Bruces in early and mediæval times abound with thrilling and romantic incidents, and form some of the most memorable passages of Scottish history. For centuries before the period to which this work relates the family had been settled in Fifeshire, and during the greater part of that time had been more or less connected with the diplomatic service. The father of the future Governor-General of Canada was that well-known despoiler of the Parthenon who was so mercilessly, and at the same time so unjustifiably, pilloried by Lord Byron in ‘The Curse of Minerva,’ for removing the Elgin marbles, as they are now called, from Athens to England. The archæological

* *The Last Forty Years—Canada since the Union of 1841.* By JOHN CHARLES DENT. 2 vols. Pages 392, 649: 76 full page engravings. Toronto: George Virtue. Twenty parts. Price fifty cents per part. Bound in two volumes. Cloth, gilt, \$12.