

It would be the grossest injustice to assign this volume to either of these classes; it stands midway between. It neither is a stale collection of little events which merely float upon the surface of the on-moving current; nor is it a novel-like description of the career of a great people. Those events which the author selects are arranged in such an order as to convey a general knowledge. Every artist knows that the happy relation of parts is of importance tenfold greater than the particulars themselves. It is so in music, it is so in novels, it is so in sculpture, it is so in history.

There is scarcely a department where a teacher has a grander scope for the play of every power—of analysis, of imagination, of satire, of comprehension, of eloquence—than in that of history. It is a scandal, however, that too often it is a flimsy slipshod performance. The teacher conducts the class into a catacomb of dead men's bones, and then wonders that the scholars loathe that close sepulchral region and long for the free air! The teacher discusses a date, or a letter, or a circumstance which is trifling, until the learners regard him as either a prodigy or one who whiles away the time with a dainty show of erudition. Pedagogues deserve the extremest respect, but they are faulty at some points. We remember a teacher who thrashed the urchins to get by heart the years when the kings were born and died, when glass and gunpowder and printing were invented. Above all, he insisted upon a minute knowledge of every war, when fought, the number of the slain, the number of cannon taken, etc., etc.; and how the sullen spiteful instructor counted it a poor day when some youngster did not fall a victim to his rage! He forgot that a distant war affects a country about as much as a scuffle which has

blackened the eye of a ruffian injures his general organism. Indeed, the farther a country goes the chief objection to war is that it loosens and jeopardises that amity between the nations which is delicate yet necessary.

This method is a disgrace to history. It is a grouping of national affairs as the old-fashioned photographer made every person stand straight, look ahead, drop a curl over the brow—this stiff likeness is not lifelike, it is rather death where the body is laid out according to rule. The fewer those who pawn off old and worn-out stories upon a class that claims a broader knowledge, the better for both parties. Who cares whether a date be astray or whether a name be mis-spelt? One pedant says a great personage was born 90, A.D., another, 91 A.D., another 92 A.D., another 93 A.D., and the controversy waxes so warm that we doubt after awhile whether the person was really born at all!

This work is a foreign product; it supplies what is needed, however. High-school teachers will find it a magazine of information. It will furnish them with what will equip them for their position. Then it will smooth the rough and stony road of our plodders through the examinations. The author travels from the Saxon to the Hanoverian period; there are six maps, numerous woodcuts (not pictures!); the transitions from period to period are clearly worked out; genealogical tables decorate the pages here and there; there is an epitome of the age at the close of every section. Altogether the production is worthy; and if it is introduced into Canada, we desire for it a large sale, if for no other reason than that it should sting into effort some native Canadian, who is too diffident to attempt a history of our Dominion.