

THE UNITED KINGDOM. A Political History. By Goldwin Smith, D.C.L. The Copp, Clark Company, Limited, Front St., Toronto. Two volumes, \$4.00.

Not only in University circles, but in the literary world at large, the publication of Goldwin Smith's "United Kingdom" has long been looked forward to with the greatest anticipations. Fears had arisen from time to time that the world might in some way be denied the ultimate expression of this man of genius, and something of a sense of relief was mingled with the satisfaction consequent upon the announcement of its publication. It is with special interest and great expectations, therefore, that the reader turns to a perusal of these two volumes, but it is probably not too much to say that the expectations of the most sanguine have been fully realized and that a monumental work has been added to the list of the great masterpieces of history. During his long life Dr. Smith has always recognized the claims made upon him by contemporary questions, and the experience thus ripened, lends an added force as well as a halo to a mind naturally perspicuous. The result is a product stamped with that profound simplicity that belongs to the highest art and a grace and ease of style that make the reading of "political" history—which might be expected to be dry and uninteresting—a rare pleasure and delight. Dr. Smith, probably more than any other writer of the day, possesses that unflinching judgment which unconsciously tells him where the interest will float the fact and where it will not. There is, therefore, a smoothness and evenness of style worked out in perfect harmony with his subject, the secret of which is to be found only in the tendrils of the human heart itself. These volumes may be read with great profit for the fresh information they contain, or they may be read as literary masterpieces, but he who reads them for both will gain the deepest satisfaction.

As the sub-title indicates, it is a political history from the earliest times to the Reform Bill of 1832. The writer adheres religiously but by no means slavishly to his main line. Collateral lines of history which cannot properly be said to exert an immediate influence upon the political history, are, therefore, not included, and we have less about wars than about the church. Indeed the church may be said to play a very considerable part, especially in those portions dealing with the early days of Methodism.

It is impossible to do more than mention this book here, but no University student who takes any interest in the progress of the empire can afford to overlook this important work.

These two volumes would make as handsome a Christmas gift as any student could desire.

THE EYE OF A GOD, AND OTHER TALES OF EAST AND WEST. By W. A. Fraser. William Briggs, Toronto. 16mo., 260 pages. Paper, 50c.; cloth, 90c.

It is a far cry from Burmah to the Canadian North-West; and Hpo Thit, the Burman, is very unlike Sweet Grass, the Cree. Mr. W. A. Fraser has seen life in countries far apart and under conditions widely different. He has, moreover, seen life in the far East and far West not as a mere tourist or passing spectator sees it. Years of residence in both regions and the artist's eye for the real character rather than for the surface appearance have qualified him to write stories of unusual interest and power of what are to us foreign peoples. His faithful portrayal of character and masterly control of incident cannot but remind the reader of Kipling; and, indeed, several of these stories are fully worthy of the great Rudyard himself. Mr. Fraser is still a young man and this is the only published volume of his stories, yet as a short story writer he has already established a reputation such as no other Canadian, with the possible exception of Robert Barr, has gained.

The same publisher has issued a volume of stirring tales of love and war in mediaeval Germany written by Robert Barr, and entitled "The Strong Arm," also "Diana of Ville Marie." "A Romance of French Canada," by Blanche Lucile Macdonell, and "Snow on the Headlight," a story of the Great Burlington Strike, by Cy Warman,

THE NEW EVANGELISM. By Henry Drummond. Fleming H. Revell Co., Toronto, 154 Yonge Street. 12mo., 284 pages. \$1.25.

Perhaps no man of this century has spoken so directly and forcibly to students the world over as has Henry Drummond. The seven addresses which make up this, the last volume that is to be published from Prof. Drummond's notes were many of them first delivered before college men; and they treat, in Drummond's inimitable style, of some religious problems that, perhaps, all genuine present day students must face. In these addresses there is an even franker statement, than in the author's other published works, of religious and scientific difficulties and suggested solutions; and there breathes through them the same genial healthy and entirely manly spirit that animated all his doings. The titles of some of the addresses, "Survival of the Fittest," "The Contribution of Science to Christianity," "Spiritual Diagnosis," will suggest to our reader that here, as in Drummond's other books, he may expect to feel the unique power of this clear-eyed scientist to use scientific truth in organizing religious thought.

FAR ABOVE RUBIES. By George Macdonald. The Musson Book Co., Toronto. 50c.

Possibly a bit of the author's own experience. It is a simple little love story directly told and intended to inspire the sufferer with constant trust in an over-ruling Providence. It makes a very suitable little gift.

JANICE MEREDITH. A romance of the American Revolution. By Paul Leicester Ford, author of "The Honorable Peter Sterling." Cloth, \$1.50. Published by The Copp, Clark Co., Limited, Toronto.

Just at this season of the year, when people are on the lookout for appropriate Christmas gifts, the beautiful appearance of this charming



book is worth noting. The cover contains a tinted miniature of Janice, of exquisite tone and delicacy. This miniature portrait is Mr. Ford's conception of his heroine, and will serve to indicate what Mr. Ford's delightful maiden of many moods was like.

It has been said more than once that if any man were qualified to write the great American historical novel it is Mr. Ford, for he combines with an intimate knowledge of the subject the power to write a strong, absorbing and successful novel.

"Janice Meredith" is an attempt to do in the North what Thackeray did in the South with "The Virginians," during the same period. It is not a novel whose characters are made of

generals, colonels and soldiers, and whose scenes consist of battlefields, skirmishes and sanguinary adventures. It is a picture of the social life of the people at that time. Just as in "The Virginians," Mr. Ford opens his story with a series of chapters which show us the way in which the people thought and acted in 1776 in the State of New Jersey; we are introduced to squires and their wives and daughters; but through it we hear the hum of the oncoming strife, and by and by the story gathers force and impetus as General Washington comes on the scene, and we are introduced to the struggles on Manhattan Island, and on the Jersey shore, crossing the Delaware, camping out at Morristown, and so on through the war. The interest in the story is strong from the start. Washington comes repeatedly into the story, and the character of its hero is based on that of Alexander Hamilton.

THE SPAN O' LIFE. A tale of Louisburg and Quebec. By William McLennan and Miss J. N. McIlwraith, with twenty-nine illustrations by F. de Myrbach. Published by the Copp, Clark Co., Limited. Price, paper, 75 cents; cloth, \$1.50.

This is probably the most important Canadian historical romance since "The Seats of the Mighty." The connection naturally suggests comparison, but comparison reveals little in common beyond the main historical events. For while the principal charm of "The Seats of the Mighty" lies in the character studies, the "Span o' Life" glories in action, restless pulse-quickening action, which cannot be confined by the walls of Louisburg and Quebec, but takes vent in many an exhilarating adventure through forest and river, sometimes with le pere, Jean, missionary to the Indians, sometimes with the hardy "coureur de bois," and at others on the broad St. Lawrence with the true-hearted Gabriel Dufour. Of the Canadians proper of that period we do not get the most favorable impression, but this was largely compensated by their gallant stand after the defeat on the Plains of Abraham.

"Unofficered and undirected, they had stubbornly disputed every inch of ground when all others had given way. . . . They were not regulars; they made no pretence to the science of war, they had been despised and belittled probably by every officer in the service for their manner of fighting; yet now in the hour of need they alone stood firm between the flying army and destruction."