

character of the man who, whether extracting teeth, cracking a stone with his geological hammer as he journeys over the mountain with his students, opening his Bible before a heathen audience, or addressing a cultured assembly in his native land, has but one end in view, the carrying out of his youthful resolve to be one of the messengers by whom the glad tidings of great joy should be carried to all the nations. This reference to early days may introduce our closing paragraph, and suggest some reflections on burning questions of to-day. Not that we believe it would be wise, even if possible, to run the future into the mould of the past, only let it be remembered that there is such a thing as truth, whose vesture may needs be changed, but whose *substantia* remains ever the same.

Of Dr. Mackay's parents, who were Scottish Highlanders that migrated to what was in 1830 the wild woods of Canada, we are told that they did more than hew down forests and transform sluggish swamps into fields of brown and gold; "they worshipped and served the eternal God, taught their children to read the Bible and believe it, listen to conscience and obey it, observe the Sabbath and love it, to honour and reverence the office of the gospel ministry. Their theology may have been narrow but it was deep and high. Men believed and felt, but seldom spoke about their own deeper spiritual experiences. Men may talk slightly to-day about that stern old Calvinism. They would do well to pause and ask about its fruits. What other creed has so swept the whole field of life with the dread artillery of truth, and made men unflinchingly loyal to conscience and tremorless save in the presence of God?" The man of letters will find little in this book to commend; the cynic has many opportunities for a sneer; the sectary will read with his bias; the Canadian with just pride; the propagandist will peruse a wonderful chapter in modern missionary enterprise; the thoughtful reader and the devoted Christian will each find in this book a character to study—a vigorous mind and stalwart frame dominated by one idea; a soldier's loving loyalty to Jesus Christ as King.

The book is in the publishers' best style with maps and photogravures.

JOHN BURTON.

### Oxford and Her Colleges.\*

ONE disadvantage of living in a young country like Canada is that everything about us is so painfully new. Unfortunately, too, newness is generally a guarantee of ugliness. We are to-day so practical, as it is termed, that for every dollar expended we must be able to calculate arithmetically upon a dollar's worth in return. If, for instance, a church is to be erected, the first consideration is apt to be the securing accommodation for the greatest number of people for the smallest amount of money; then appropriateness and beauty of structure may be considered. So with our colleges. A block of lecture-rooms or a science-hall is in prospect; accommodation is the chief, if not the only requisite. Accordingly some of our colleges are beginning to look more like manufactories than homes of learning. But is not the modern college often regarded more as a manufactory than a home; as a place where so many trained intellects are turned out each year, rather than as a home where the many sides of its sons' characters are harmoniously developed? The non-residential college can accommodate a great number of students for comparatively little money; therefore it is in vogue. But it cannot give adequate training. What a contrast between the environment of an Oxford man living with some thousands of brothers in a home that has been aptly described as "ten centuries chronicled in stone," and that of a 'Varsity man living in a boarding-house and going to the lecture-room as to an office.

One of the great English homes of learning is described in Prof. Goldwin Smith's "Oxford and Her Colleges." The purpose of its publication is to furnish a sort of guide-book for American visitors to Oxford. Such a task the author is peculiarly fitted to perform, for he has not only spent a portion of his life among the scenes described, but he has

also, in the service of a Royal Commission of Inquiry made a study of the Archives of the University and its colleges.

The result of his experiences is given in his well-known charming style. Every bit of the book is delightful reading. It is especially interesting to Canadians as it gives an insight into the working of institutions that are almost unknown in this country. The reader is taken to the top of the Radcliffe Library, whence a bird's-eye view of the colleges is obtained, and is asked to imagine the scene as it looked in the thirteenth century when all the present buildings that existed were the grim castle to the west of the city and the stern tower of St. Michael's Church. Starting from this point the reader watches the gradual growth of buildings and institutions, the changes in the character of the students and in the University politics. In the age of the Mediaeval Renaissance "universities came out all over Europe like stars in the night." It was probably in the reign of Henry I. that a company of teachers settled at Oxford. Books in those days were few, printing not having yet been invented, and the lecture room of the professor was the fountain of knowledge. In the days of Simon de Montfort the University was Liberal; under the Commonwealth it was Royalist; after the Revolution of 1789 it was Jacobite. The University was in existence a century before the first college—Merton—was built. Merton, founder of the college bearing his name, was the chancellor of Henry III.; munificent statesmen and ecclesiastics of succeeding ages followed his example until the Tractarian movement was commemorated in the present century by the foundation of Keble College. In early days the students were mostly poor and their life was no luxurious one. A student "shared a room with three or four chums; he slept under a rug; his fare was coarse and scanty; his garment was the gown which has now become a mere academical symbol, and thankful he was to be provided with a new one." The beginning of the eighteenth century was a time of stagnation: professors neglected to lecture, and idleness, intemperance, and riot were rife among the students, the wealthier classes monopolizing the University. This state of affairs is portrayed in "Verdant Green," and it was about the same time that two questions—"What is the meaning of Golgotha?" and "Who founded University College?"—comprised the examination upon which Lord Eldon took his degree. This state of affairs is happily long past and "of the two or three thousand lamps which to-night will gleam from those windows, few will light the supper-table or the gaming-table; most will light the book." It was at the end of the last or the beginning of the present century that the revival took place. Soon afterwards the professors began to lecture and by the removal of religious tests the University was thrown open to the nation. Mr. Goldwin Smith is as unfair in dealing with the Tractarian movement as he is mistaken in his recently expressed views on the Old Testament but this does not impair the value of the book for one recognizes that theology is not in his line. The volume before us is perfect in letter-press and paper, and contains many well-executed engravings of venerable Oxford buildings.

### "Low Tide on Grand Pre."

Lyrics of love and death  
Poor themes outworn!  
Yet fresh on the singer's breath  
As the wind of morn  
Blowing in dawn's wild light  
Ere day is born.

Voice of the Ardis hills!  
Passion-fraught breath  
Of remembrance that pierces and thrills  
The scorner of death  
And in the soul's wild night  
Still questioneth.

Belle Meade, New Jersey.

RICHARD L. CARTER.

The Clarendon Press are about to issue a collection of the traditional hymns, of the ancient Gaelic Church in Scotland, by Mr. Alexander Carmichael, of Edinburgh. Mr. Carmichael, who is in the Excise, is a very learned Celt, with an extensive acquaintance with the old customs of the Western Isles.

\* "Oxford and Her Colleges: A View from the Radcliffe Library." By Goldwin Smith, D.C.L. Macmillan & Co., New York and London.