

From the "Monetary Times," April 5th, 1889

Much of the kaleidoscopic character of Mr. Taylor's book is accounted for by what he says of its origin. He "called back" from memory the facts and incidents to be related, not intending them for the public eye, but partly for self recreation and partly for family gratification. And so he goes on to tell of his own early days, then of trans-Atlantic travel, of scenes and pageants, public persons and public buildings in Europe, his impression of New York, his adventures here, there, and everywhere, persons and things in Toronto forty years ago, twenty years ago and to-day. Not only these, but statistics, poems, and anecdotes, and moralizings on almost any and every subject.

A stranger being shown the volume we are describing, "Toronto Called Back," would scarcely know from its title what sort of a book to expect. But Mr. Taylor has provided him with a book which is at once biographical, historical, statistical, and amusing. There are 518 pages and 53 illustrations in it, and it really does contain much information about Toronto. The author is able to tell of earlier social events in

A small city in the West,
Where many very worthy people
Eat, drink, play whist and do their best
To guard from evil, church and steeple.

But he does more. The author was a merchant, and on a considerable scale. He devotes much space to reminiscences connected with trade and manufactures, and of figures illustrating the growth of Toronto and of Canada. For instance: on pages 96 to 98 may be found a description of the origin of the bonding system between the United States and this country.

The chapter, or part of a chapter, entitled "Buying in Europe, its pleasures and responsibilities," is also an entertaining bit of description. "Toronto as a musical city" awakens expectation, and truly we find a good account of musical persons and events, evidently the work of one who has an intelligent interest in music.

It is proper to explain that the present is the third edition of this book. The first contained some 300 pages and was issued in 1886. The next appeared in the following year, on the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee, an event which the author celebrates with exuberant loyalty, extending over 80 pages. Then the doings of and in the city in 1888 fell to be described, and the author takes, besides, a hand in matters of international concern. We must remark the decided improvement in appearance of this book over former editions. It is on toned paper, well bound, and the typography does credit to the press of the Methodist Publishing House.

From the "Dominion Churchman," February 7th, 1889.

This handsome volume is, as its title quaintly sets forth, a retrospective sketch of the history of Toronto for some forty to fifty years. The author, Mr. C. C. Taylor, having been settled therein many years, like most residents of Toronto is very enthusiastic in his admiration of this noble city. His work will give to the outer world an admirable account of the early life and the marvellous development of Toronto. It is adorned with engravings of the principal public buildings, such as Trinity College, Toronto University, St James' Church, commonly called "The Cathedral," the Custom House and Osgoode Hall, all of which are worthy to be in honor as adornments of an European city. He gives, also, pictures of a large number of edifices of no mean character built by the Presbyterian, Methodist, and other religious bodies, also drawings of mercantile houses, and portraits of public men. Mr. Taylor recently received the thanks of the Queen, the Princess of Wales, and the Empress Frederick of Germany, for presentation copies of *TORONTO "CALLED BACK."* It has been highly spoken of by a large number of distinguished persons, and been everywhere received by those interested in Toronto or in Canada with flattering commendation. The Corporation of Toronto subscribed for three hundred copies for distribution amongst the great libraries of the world. Mr. Taylor has issued a book that, besides the deep interest of its contents, is a highly attractive volume for the table, and the loyal and patriotic tone of it is expressed with good judgment as well as good taste by the Royal Arms forming the leading adornment of the binding. We hope Mr. Taylor will find ample reward for his enterprise by a large sale of his interesting and valuable contribution to Canadian history.