



## The WAY of LETTERS

"IN manufactures Canada is 'away behind' both Great Britain and the United States. I am not asserting the Canadian manufacturer has not grit and push; but the results have not yet been sufficient to justify him in thinking he is anywhere near a level of competence with Britain. With the exception of a particular branch of agricultural implement manufacture there is not a single industry in Canada at the present time which could hold its own against fair-price and quality competition with the United States and Great Britain." The foregoing is the opinion of John Foster Fraser, author of a new book on Canada entitled "Canada as it Is." Lord Strathcona contributes to this book what is called an introduction, but he does not say anything about the book or the author. He makes a few observations regarding Canada, and lets it go at that. The volume is the most readable of the many that have been written about Canada of late, but it is not the most correct. For instance, a chapter is devoted to "Toronto: the most English city in Canada." If Toronto had been called the most American city in Canada the estimate would have been better. Toronto is not nearly so English as either Halifax or Victoria. Again, Mr. Fraser writes with admirable assurance about the loyalty of French-Canadians, a subject that has all along baffled the most astute and

constant observers. It is always well to listen carefully to remarks of strangers, but passing impressions should not be retailed as the last word. The volume contains several reproductions of excellent drawings by the Canadian illustrator Mr. C. W. Jefferys. (Toronto: Cassell & Company).

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"THE Dominion of Canada," by W. L. Griffith, is one of the books of the "All Red Series," which is "designed at once to quicken the interest of Englishmen in the extension and maintenance of the Empire, and to give an account of its constituent countries as they are to-day." It is some time since a volume of equal illuminating qualities has been written about Canada. Besides giving at the outset a brief, yet intelligible survey of the history of Canada, there are chapters on, for instance, "The American Invasion," "The Habitant," "Social Life To-day of Canada," "The Governor-General and the High Commissioner," "The Parliament of Canada," "Defence," "Banking and Currency in British North America," "Customs Revenue and Taxation." It is therefore a volume that is full of instruction for the average Canadian, a volume indeed, that might well be used in Canadian schools and colleges. It deals with subjects that are not familiarly understood. Most Canadians observe Parliament in session, but they do