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EVER since the days of "A Gentleman of France" and "Under the Red Robe," a novel by Stanley Weyman gives assurance of more than ordinary pleasure. His latest work, "Chippinge Borough," is a fine picture of the strife in the thirties when the Reform Bill set England aflame, as much as that sturdy island is ever enkindled. This book is the best material the author has produced in the last five years and rebukes with its careful detail the slovenly work of most modern "historical romancers." The old-fashioned boarding school, the lumbering coach and the Westminster walks are brought into modern days with the vividness of portraiture. (Toronto: The Macmillan Company of Canada.)

\* \*

Rev. R. Walter Wright, the author of "The Dream of Columbus," has published a new volume of verse, "Among the Immortals," which contains much that is to be admired, but no one poem of the quality of his first work. Mr. Wright has genuine poetic feeling but the fault of diffuseness occasionally mars his work. The sonnets on great Hebrew characters are marked by depth of reflection and a dramatic power to appreciate their magnitude. The modern world listens more readily to such lines as these on the "Joy of Living," which is a song for the New Year :

"And I drink full draughts of fresh-flowing wine  
From the rich, ripe clusters of being."

\* \*

The sixtieth issue of the Canadian Almanac (Toronto: the Copp, Clark Co.) is to hand. It contains the new customs tariff as well as all the general information which the public has grown accustomed to find in its well-packed pages. There is a special review of the last sixty years by Professor Wrong. The regular historical diary is brought up to November 26th.

\* \*

English reviewers are not in the habit of dealing any too tenderly with American poetry and a recent article in the London "Times" is vaguely distrustful of the pessimistic tone of much of the verse written on this continent. The writer of the criticism expresses himself in approving terms on the subject of Bliss Carman's quality of "youthful gaiety and bravery" which he declares "due, perhaps, to his Canadian birth." We do not know on what facts the reviewer bases his surmises, as Canada has never been considered a nation of lively spirits. In fact, humour languishes in our publications which usually buy syndicated jokes from the republic which has produced Mark Twain and which suffers from George Ade. So seriously are Canadians usually regarded that when one of them relapses into playfulness he is tragically misunderstood. Witness the solemnity with which the United States' press regarded the Canadian physician's pleasantry regarding anaesthetics for sexagenarians and upwards. Uneasy lies the Canadian who makes a joke.

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