

NOTICES OF PUBLICATIONS.

A NEW CANADIAN NOVEL.

THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF SIMON SEEK, OR CANADA IN ALL SHAPES. By "Maple Knot," John Lovell, Montreal; W. C. F. Caverhill, Toronto; and to be had at the Book Stores throughout Canada.

We have much pleasure in introducing this admirable Work to the notice of our Readers. Simply as a contribution to our scanty Canadian Literature it would be hailed by us with pleasure, and gratefully accepted; but we are happy to find, after a careful perusal, that its own individual merits are such as to claim for it a more hearty welcome, and something more than a casual notice at our hands.

The opening scenes are laid in London, England, where all the principal characters are collected; after which, by a complication of circumstances, they are removed together to this continent, and Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, and intermediate places become the subsequent field of the Plot.

The characters and scenes are very numerous, highly drawn, happy in conception, and admirable in execution. The man Blackbourn, led on by a mysterious, and irresistible influence to the commission of crime upon crime, until the struggles of conscience, remorse for his deeds, and the still dark promptings of his evil genius, leave him a raving maniac and an appalling tenant of the solitary forest; and the noble-minded Scotchman, McCameron, hurrying over sea and land and daring alone and unattended the deep depths of the forest in search of his beloved daughter,—are admirable and startling portraits, executed with a mastery and. While Mr. Kwack, a small patriotic reformer and devourer of Johnsonb, his friend Albosh, a man of science and of great discoveries; the little phenomenon Timothy; Slicker the Yankee land-jobber; and the victim Selina,—present a group of eccentricities, and an embodiment of wit and humor that have caused us more laughter and entertainment than it has been our good fortune to indulge in for some considerable time.

The book also abounds with fine pieces of composition and graphic descriptions, among which the Storm and Sea, the Visit by Night to the Lunatic Asylum at Toronto, the Election, and the Chaudiere Falls, are prominent and admirable executions.

The domestic scenes and characters are equally happy. The love complication between, Simon, Alice, and Lizzy, the honest and simple-minded Plumley, his affectionate and open-hearted little wife, and the weak-minded Mrs. Sortish—are all photographs from life, and exceedingly pleasant and entertaining.

The author of Simon Seek evidently possesses in no mean degree, all the requisites of a successful and popular novelist: and we hail the advent of this work amongst us as an earnest of better things for our literature of Canada; for there can be no doubt, if the succeeding efforts of "Maple Knot" sustain the promise of Simon Seek, we shall soon be able, at least, to boast a novelist, and a novelist of whom we may well be proud.

In conclusion, we recommend it with confidence and pleasure to our readers, being satisfied that none that begin it will lay it aside until they have read the last page, and that then they will lay it down, as we have done, only regretting that the pleasure and entertainment afforded by its perusal is at an end.*

* We trust that this work will be read and done justice to by the Press of Canada, for, as we understand it is about being published in England, we should be sorry to see it left to English critics to discover the merits of a Canadian novel.