

the Orient. Since Sir George Simpson's day a whole library has been devoted to the Canadian North-west. The Rev. Prof. George Bryce, of Winnipeg, has done his share in clearing up the darker passages in its earlier annals. His "Manitoba" gave a general review of the course of events since the formation of the Hudson's Bay Company. His successive contributions to the Royal Society have brought together many fresh facts concerning the early explorers and the old forts of the Companies. He has also added a chapter to the story of the Mound Builders. Prof. Macoun's "Great North-west" has served to many as an introduction to the magnitude of that very little known heritage, his experience as a naturalist having helped him not a little in the exposition of the country's physical features and especially the products of the soil. The important department of the public service with which he is connected, the Geographical Survey, has for many years been engaged in the task of making known the wondrous and varied mineral and vegetable wealth of the country. Notwithstanding his sometime leadership of the anti-Confederation movement, it fell to the lot of the late Hon. Joseph Howe to give the first instructions to the head of the Survey for the exploration of the vast domain of Western Canada. Dr. Selwyn, Dr. G. M. Dawson, Dr. R. Bell, the late Mr. James Richardson, Mr. Tyrrell and other members of the staff have explored, described and mapped out a considerable part of the habitable portion of the Territories and British Columbia. The work of Mr. Bell in illustrating the subject of Hudson's Bay navigation and of Mr. Tuttle in preserving a record of the expeditions, under Capt. Gordon for the purpose of testing the practicability of the route, may be mentioned *en passant*.

Of late there has been started a new phase of magazine illustrations, which is also a sort of pictorial biography. It consists in the publication of portraits from infancy to maturity, to middle age or to old (according to the stage of his or her pilgrimage that the subject has reached), of some eminent man or woman. To these portraits, chronologically classified, is given the title of "Human Documents." Now, it seems to me that the term thus ingeniously employed to indicate a person's involuntary testimony to human life and character, might be applied to the case of those pioneers or experts who may, when "sifted by interrogatories," be made to yield most valuable facts relating to the history of a town, a country or an institution. This mode of gathering data for history is simply a combination of the interview (which is as old as, if not older than, Herodotus) with tradition, which is as old as humanity. Never, perhaps, was it applied with greater success in eliciting important facts from human repositories that might without such skilful invocation have gone dumb to the silent grave, than on this very soil of British Columbia. For, apart from the information collected by Dr. Dawson, Dr. Boaz and several others from the lips of Indians, what can be more interesting than the account that Mr. H. H. Bancroft gives us of his tour of inquiry among the H. B. Co.'s veterans of that Province. It is not often, indeed, that a man, still in the prime of life, has found his historical labors so universally prized that it is worth his while to write the story of them, step by step, from starting point to goal. But Mr. H. H. Bancroft is no

ordinary historian. Had he finished no task but that of the five volumes of the "Native Races of the Pacific States," he was assured a place forever among those who had contributed to the history of America. Had he done nothing more than collect his thesaurus of Americana, he would have earned the gratitude of his generation and of posterity. But the library that he has created, giving the essential substance and historic worth of the library that he collected, fully justifies the relation of the plan and method, the toils, the trials and the triumphs of his "Literary Industries." (Harper & Brothers.) For the Canadian, most fascinating and (for the historical student) most exemplary is the chapter on his explorations in Vancouver Island. He knew what he had come northward for, knew that it was accessible, and was determined not to return to San Francisco without it. Of those whom he approached some were already unknown as politicians, administrators or explorers. Others owe their fame, such as it is, to the man who turned their pent-up knowledge to such good purpose. Very interesting is the portrayal of some of those veterans of the wild. Sir James Douglas; his son-in-law, Dr. Helmcken; Mr. W. F. Tolmie, Messrs. Pemberton, Sproat and Deans, Dr. John Ash, "old John Tod," the Rev. W. Good, Bishop Hills, Amor de Cosmos, Archibald McKinlay, "a brave and estimable character"; Frederick Finlayson, "a magnificent specimen of the old school Scotch gentleman"; Mr. A. C. Anderson, "of marked literary ability," and several others who had been "at the biggin' o't," gave Mr. Bancroft, out of their abundance, much precious information touching the early annals of the pioneer. If one has any regret in reading this entertaining record of historical exploration, it is that it was left to an able and energetic outsider to carry off these *spolia opima* of British Columbia's archives. Nevertheless, by the place that he has given to the "Hyperboreans" and "Columbians" in his "Native Races," Mr. Bancroft had already made good his footing on our soil and he deserved the welcome that he received and the gifts he knew how to turn to account.

Mr. Herbert Bancroft has, however, by no means exhausted the subject of British Columbia, whether we have reference to its aborigines, its resources or its history. The British Association, at its Montreal meeting, appointed a Committee to investigate the physical characters, languages and industrial and social condition of the North-western tribes of Canada, the late Sir Daniel Wilson, Dr. G. M. Dawson and Mr. R. G. Haliburton representing the Dominion and the other members being General Sir J. H. Lefroy, Dr. Tyler and Mr. G. W. Bloxam. Dr. Boaz and Mr. H. Hale, of Clinton, Ont., have contributed largely to the preparations of the Reports of the Committee, which shed much additional light on the dialects and folk-lore of the Indians of British Columbia. Mr. James Deans, Father Morice and the Rev. A. J. Hall have also contributed to the illustration of their traditions, customs and languages. As to the literature that deals with the resources of the Province and of the whole of New Canada, it is already a considerable branch of bibliography in all our public libraries.

This running glance at some of the contributions to the history of our share of the continent has omitted much more than it has taken note of in the publications of the last

few years. It is, however, sufficient to establish the fact that in whatever impulse the Columbian celebration has given to the study of the past in the New World, Canada is not without some share. I have confined myself mainly to those contributions to historical literature or the material for it, which are the results of research in special fields, and particularly fields in which the writers are at home. A veteran publisher contemplated for years before his death last summer the preparation of a history of Canada, which would be a history of every place within its boundaries based on just such interrogation of local Nestors and experts as proved so fruitful for Mr. Bancroft's purposes. There is still scope for the collection of a great mass of valuable data, especially as to the settlement of Canada. By the aid of contemporary writings, it is possible to trace back to its cradle every community in New France, including some cities and towns now wholly or largely British. We have the history, for instance, of Boucherville, of Longueuil, as well as in Girouard's splendid history of Lachine, and Abbé Casgrain has portrayed the life of a Canadian parish of the 17th century. This little monograph was written to correct what he considered misjudgments in a volume by one whom the author admired for his graces of style, whom he revered for his graces of character, one to whom Canada remains forever indebted—the historian of the old regime, Francis Parkman.

JOHN READE.

CANADA AND MANIFEST DESTINY.

The November Forum contains two articles on Canada and Manifest Destiny—one from the pen of Mr. J. Castell Hopkins on Canadian Hostility to Annexation, the other from Mr. Fréchette on the United States for French Canadians. The first has the characteristics of a hustings speech, the other is the frank confession of one whose political experience has not tended to give either confidence or contentment.

That English-speaking Canadians as a whole have no annexation sentiment, may even be hostile thereto, is a simple truism, manifest to all who mingle freely with them; that the manifest-destiny, anti-British fourth of July orations, and constant twisting of the Lion's tail only intensifies what hostility there may be, goes without saying, and gives occasion for what fire-eating jingo talk may be indulged in on this side of the line. Mr. Hopkins is right in saying that Canada is content with her present national position, but the reasons therefor lie deeper in our nature than those put forth in his article; e.g., when he writes that our banking system has proved itself less fluctuating and insecure than that of our neighbors, he gives what may indeed make our contentment more profound, but in no sense can it be given as a first cause thereof, for of a thousand voters, all of whom would cast an indignant ballot against being absorbed by the great Republic, not more than five, if indeed there be so many, would know that there was a difference, or could hint as to what that difference is. The same remark applies to the comparisons drawn between the different political systems. Could Mr. Hopkins himself stand a matriculation examination thereon? Such comparisons do not touch the root of the matter, indeed we doubt if the