

## LITERARY NOTES.

The Canadian Press Association are about to pay a fitting and well-deserved compliment to Mr. Goldwin Smith by tendering him a dinner at the Queen's Hotel, Toronto, on the evening of the 3rd instant, at which, it is understood, there will be a large gathering of journalists and press writers of the Province. The circumstance which has immediately suggested the demonstration is the intended departure of the distinguished gentleman for a year's sojourn in Europe—the occasion being cordially taken advantage of to express the great respect in which Professor Smith is held by the literary profession of the country, and to acknowledge their appreciation of the service which he has rendered to independent journalism. We should have been glad had Mr. Goldwin Smith waived his objections to the Public Banquet which it was the desire of his numerous friends to tender him. Possibly, however, the Dinner Committee of the Press Association may see their way to relax the rule, excluding all but journalists, in favour of the many who wish to be present on the approaching interesting occasion.

The Book Steward of the Methodist Book House, Toronto, has done good and timely service in bringing out, by arrangement, and in cheap form, a Canadian edition of the Rev. Dr. Alexander Roberts' 'Companion to the Revised Version of the New Testament,' with a supplement by a member of the American Committee of Revision. The purpose of the work is to explain the reasons for the changes made in the authorized version as they relate either to omissions or to new renderings of the Greek text adopted by the Revisers. To this has been appended an account, by one of the American Revising Committee, of the part taken in the joint work by American divines and scholars, showing both the points of agreement with, and of variation from, their English colleagues. The 'Companion' throws a

flood of light upon the labours of both the Committees, and explains to the English reader, in an instructive and satisfactory manner, the why and wherefore of the emendations incorporated in the new text. It will be found an indispensable accompaniment to the Revised Version.

As we go to press, the second volume reaches us of Mr. W. J. Rattray's important contribution to our national literature on the subject of 'The Scot in British North America.' We can only at present announce its appearance, an event, however, of some moment when we consider the high character of Mr. Rattray's work, and the exceeding interest of the subjects dealt with in the present instalment. It will be remembered that in the initial volume the author discussed the subjects of 'The Scot at Home,' and the 'Scot across the Sea;' the latter dealing with 'Early Conquest and Colonization' and 'British Rule after the Conquest,' a fitting introduction to the events to be subsequently described. The present volume is devoted to the 'Scot in Public Life,' and treats of The War of 1812; public events from 1815 to the Union of Upper and Lower Canada; and, finally, the political development of Canada from 1840 to the period of Confederation. No work that has hitherto appeared does greater credit to Canadian literary talent than this history by Mr. Rattray. Its author has a firm grasp of his subject, and possesses in a high degree the judicial faculty, which, with the ability to write well and entertainingly, are important requisites in historical composition. This second portion of our author's work ought to meet with a hearty reception from all Canadians and those who take interest in historical studies. We shall review it at length in our next. The work is handsomely produced from the press of Hunter, Rose & Co., for the publishers, Messrs. Maclear & Co., Toronto.