

this dark and uninviting subject, and it is now very refreshing to see the interest in Canadian history becoming more general and to find some of the finest scholars and the brightest writers in the land turning their attention in this direction.

Perhaps the latest contribution to the bibliography of Canadian History comes from the pen of Mr. George M. Wrong, the Professor of History in this University. It is a large octavo brochure of some seventy-five pages, forming the first part of Volume I. of the Second History Series in the new University of Toronto Studies. It is known to most of the students that through the kindness of the Minister of Education, the University has undertaken to publish the best original work done by her undergraduates, graduates or faculty. Before long, it is expected, valuable monographs both in science and literature will be published. So far, however, the only accepted Studies have come from the department of history, and their recognized scientific value and literary worth are indications of the scholarship and the energy of Professor Wrong. The first series, of which the first volume has been published, while the second volume is to appear from the press shortly, consists of an annual critical review of all the historical publications of the previous year relating to Canada. The second series, of which "Louisbourg in 1745" forms the first part of Volume I., will comprise a number of historical papers that will probably be of more general interest.

"Louisbourg in 1745" is the translation of an anonymous letter written by a French inhabitant of Louisbourg, in Cape Breton, when that fortress was besieged and captured by the New England Militia and the British fleet in 1745. To no other one of her strategic points in America did France attach such importance as she did to Louisbourg, and its fall was one of the great cardinal events in the struggle between the French and English on this continent. For years the British both in Nova Scotia and New England watched with jealousy and apprehension the expensive and extensive fortifications which their rivals were erecting in Louisbourg. Early in March, 1745, they appeared before the stronghold and on June 29th it capitulated. As this anonymous letter, which Professor Wrong now publishes in English for the first time, is the only unofficial account, from a French point of view, of the siege, its historical value is evident. The writer outlines briefly the relations of the English and French in America and then, after describing the geographical position and resources of Louisbourg, gives a lively detailed account of the siege. He is not niggardly in his comments on the blunders both of the French Government and the British generals. But as Professor Wrong explains in the introduction to his translation, the letter takes a prejudiced view and exaggerates the numbers of the British who took part in the siege.

Of Professor Wrong's bright translation, which is published along with the original French, it would be difficult to speak too highly. In it there are no slavish literal renderings, no clumsy translations, foreign to the idiom of English. The story runs smoothly throughout. If any fault is to be found with the work it is that the editor too seldom makes his appearance before the curtain. Professor Wrong is too modest. In the translations of standard historical works, such as Mommsen's Rome, the less seen of the translator and editor the better. But in such a work as "Louisbourg in 1745," an anonymous letter written by an ordinary unofficial eye-witness of an event, the reader naturally asks that he may take the editor by the hand and be led safely through the maze of truth and falsehood, of exaggeration and prejudice. The modern school of common sense historians seems opposed to theorizing and arguing. They ask for the simple story. They want a history to be a pageant, not a philosophy.

But there is danger in carrying this tendency too far, and it is here that Professor Wrong's Study seems to be at fault. Of course this will be a fault in the eyes of general readers rather than of expert historical critics who are supposed to know wherein the narrative varies from the straight and narrow path of truth. University students, however, whether they be historical critics or not, may be pardoned if they feel disappointed at seeing in the volume so little of their Professor. A few notes he has given, but they are very few and very brief. In one or two instances, indeed, direct misstatements have been left unchallenged, for which there can be hardly any excuse. On page 26, for instance, the writer says Cape Breton "lies but two leagues distant from Acadia," whereas the width of the Strait of Canso is only about two miles. In two or three other instances, manifest mistakes are made in the statement of distances. These are trivial points and probably did not escape the notice of the editor, but it is to be regretted that he did not correct them and by more numerous notes enhance the value of what is now a very valuable Study. It is to be hoped that "Louisbourg in 1745" will prove the first of a long series of able Studies in Canadian History which will bring credit not only on the editor, Professor Wrong, but on the University which has undertaken their publication.

BRIAN BORU.

YE GREATE LITTE MEETINGE.

I have now helde my clerkshippe in ys college for nigh foure yeares, and ever have I learned newe thinges; and ye matter whereof I now write is ye neweste. And, for yat it beeth of scolaires, and ye subjecte beeth treated in ye true philosophical manere of anciente sages, I may averre yat he will not altogether flinge hys houre away who doth well peruse it. Ye matter hadde hys incepcion seven nights since in ye congregation of younge scolaires which is called ye "Litte," at which time one stoute wighte yclepte Kilgoure did give notice yat he woulde at ye nexte meetinge maken motion yat "Ys Societie regardeth ye fighte for ye possession of ye doore at ye annual elections of ye Societie as opposed to ye beste interests of ye Societe, and yat ye Presidente be instructed to close ye polling-booth at ye election ys yeare, if at any time obstruction be offered to voters, until swich obstruction be removed," whereat some did scoffe, and some did cheere, and ye moste fell into silence and deepe thoughte. Now toward ye second and third dayes of ye weeke followinge, I did mark manie younge scolaires who were erstwhile wonte to diligentlie minde their bookes, atalkinge to their fellows in corners, exhortinge 'em wi' greate mysterie and secrecie; and when another would approach uninvited they would go everyone about his business, as if they had said naughte at all. At laste I didde lose alle patience, and didde accoste one of ye sayde wights, askinge him what ye matter was. He didde straightway demand if I was "alle right," and I didde craftilie reply yat I was. Whereupon he didde smirke like ye manne in ye olde farce, and didde exclaim wi' greate inward joye yat "some-thinge would falle nexte Friday nighte." I was no little afeared in my soule, callinge to minde how yat ye secret traitours didde plotte ye deathe of Cæsar. But I dissemblinge a cheerful countenance, he didde thereto saye: "Mayhap we will not doe a thinge to 'em!" Whereat I was again free of apprehension (albeit, I have later learned yat ys beeth a sayinge which meaneth contrarywise).

Nowe, ye nighte appointed, I cominge somedeal tardilie, I hadde trouble enow to finde me a stoole. For ye three score of aforetime were now three hundred, and ye voyse of 'em was like ye roaringe of ten thousande