

amount of research, elimination and deduction. The result condenses for the reader all the necessary information regarding Confederation to be found in scores of volumes, many of them biographies and public documents, and imparts as well the note of authority obtained by interviewers with contemporaries. Apart from the fabric of Confederation history, which must be regarded as the body of the volume, the biographical sketches are compact, analytical and illuminating. For instance, we see John A. Macdonald, followed by a crowd who unblushingly address him as "John A.", while Edward Blake, "despite his great parliamentary ability and his all-encompassing brain, was beside him a cold and austere figure." William McDougall was the "victim of an unexplained coldness and a mental inertia which handicapped his progress". George Brown was "as earnest as a crusader, as courageous as a knight at arms, and as unyielding as an oak". "An under-sized, slim, wiry man, with a nervous, energetic air, a lawyer whom D'Arcy McGee called a 'hair-splitter'—this was Christopher Dunkin, who introduced temperance legislation into the Province of Canada, and who delivered the ablest speech against Confederation in the memorable debates of 1865." And so on. These are familiarizing, visualizing touches, and the book is full of them. The style throughout is concise and dignified, with a good literary flavour. There are seventeen full-page portraits and a double frontispiece. This book should be in every library in Canada.

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UP THE HILL AND OVER

BY ISABEL ECCLESTONE MACKAY. Toronto: McClelland, Goodchild and Stewart.

ONTARIO life is portrayed in few works of fiction; it is adequately portrayed in a still smaller number. Mrs. Mackay has added a most



MR. M. O. HAMMOND

Author of "Confederation and Its Leaders"

worthy volume to this sparse collection. There is humour, colour, and a sympathetic and true picture in this charming volume. The author has done for Ontario what Mary Wilkins Freeman has done more extensively for New England: she has recorded with patience and illumination the everyday happenings in an obscure hamlet. Her pages show that not all the world's interest lies in great centres, and that the humble folk of Coombe are not only interesting to one another but possess a charm for the outside world.

Dr. Callandar is a clean-cut, manly figure, a strong man broken down and seeking health in this out-of-the-way place. Esther Coombe is a winsome heroine, human and with enough dash to provide variety and heart interest. The drug-enslaved Mary Coombe is a pathetic figure, while the sacrifices of the home under these conditions make a sombre background