

assemble and break bread, and give thanks, after confessing your transgressions, in order that your sacrifice may be pure."

The early date of the treatise may be inferred from the manner in which reference is made to the election of the clergy. "Now appoint for yourselves bishops and deacons worthy of the Lord, men meek and not avaricious, and upright and proved; for they, too, render you the service of the prophets and teachers." By the middle of the second century the episcopal office had become almost universal in the Church, yet it is here ignored. Moreover the prophetic office seems to be regarded as the rule and not the exception, which also points to a very early date.

At the close there is a reference, indistinct indeed, yet tolerably conclusive, to the doctrine of a double resurrection of the dead, which was certainly the ordinary belief in the first three centuries: "And then shall appear the signs of the truth; first, the sign of an opening in heaven, then the sign of the trumpet's sound, and thirdly, the resurrection of the dead; yet not of all, but as it hath been said: The Lord will come and all the saints with Him. Then shall the world see the Lord coming upon the clouds of heaven." One phrase occurs which might suggest a later origin or an interpolation:—"If thou hast anything, by thy hands thou shalt give a ransom for thy sins." We must not, however, assume that these words meant the same as they would have done in the middle ages, or that they are not susceptible of an orthodox meaning, and similar language occurs in very early Christian documents.

There is nothing in this little book that will interfere with the beliefs of any of the existing Christian communions. It is perhaps too much to hope that any of them will think the less of the mere trifles by which they are separated. At least they may learn that the first Christians were not even conscious of most of the questions by which the Church of Christ is now rent in pieces.

C.

WITHROW'S HISTORY OF CANADA.*

SOME conscientious and painstaking work has been done by a few writers in the field of Canadian history. To produce a hundred pages of the history of the French colony, Professor Dussieu went through the heavy labour of reading all the documents relating to his subject to be found in the archives of the Marine and War departments, in Paris. To him, more than to any one else, we owe the scathing exposure of the system of plundering, carried on by Bigot and his guilty associates, in the last days of the agony which ended in the colony ceasing to be French. The Abbé Ferland, another professor of history, has given us two volumes which, on the whole, present a fair and honest view of the same period—a work largely founded on original sources of information. Its fault is that the method is that of the annalist; the little rills are not carefully gathered into one unbroken stream. We get glimpses of the little colony struggling for existence, on the banks of the St. Lawrence; but we get them through opening vistas as we pass along the edge of the forest. Among musty documents relating to the history of Canada, the Abbe Faillon spent a life of loving labour. The amount of work he did, and did well, on Canadian biography and history, is enormous. Garneau takes us over the whole course of the history, down to the union of 1840; and under his guidance we are never permitted to forget that we are under the direction of an intensified sentiment of French Canadian nationality. Whatever the merits of these writers, their standpoint is not ours; and after all they had done, the want of a good English history of Canada was felt.

Of the long list of writers who have been pleased to adorn the pages of their books with the title *The History of Canada*, from 1609 to 1884, Mr. Withrow has the distinction of being the latest, and of covering the longest period of time. Living in Toronto, where there was no great public library, and where private collections are few and the best of them defective, Mr. Withrow has worked under disadvantages. He draws most of his materials from secondary sources; he copies McMullen with a fidelity which is proved by his re-producing that writer's errors; and he very often errs, in points of fact, on his own account. The assertion that Hudson penetrated to the depths of the great Mediterranean Sea which bears his name (page 48), and at which, in truth, he barely got a glimpse, might pass for a stroke of rhetoric; to describe as a "leading capitalist" (p. 434) a man who was hopelessly bankrupt is an indication of carelessness such as we too often find in this work; the repetition of McMullen's blunder, after the specific refutation it had received, which carries up to thirty-six the number of insurgents killed and wounded in the fight at Gallows Hill, shows that the loosest state-

ments of other writers were copied without any attempt to test their accuracy. The site of the battle is in the outskirts of Toronto; and in an hour half-a-dozen surviving eye-witnesses, cognizant of the facts, could be consulted.

But these are trivial errors, and are only noticed here to give the author an opportunity to correct them when occasion offers. There remain to be noticed errors which are not trivial but fundamental; statements which, if true, would have had a decided effect on the current of Canadian history, for several years. We are told (p. 391) that when the British Government determined to unite the Canadas, in 1840, it decided to embody in the new constitution the principle of Responsible Government, and that, by the Union Act, the government "must command the support of a majority in the Legislature." If Mr. Withrow will read the Union Act, he will find in it no warrant for the statement that the government "must command the support of a majority in the Legislature." Such a provision, if happily it had been contained in the new constitution, would have established parliamentary government so securely that it would, from the day the Union Act went into force, have been able to resist assault, from whatever quarter; the responsible government resolutions afterwards passed by both Houses, and of which Mr. Withrow makes no mention, would have been unnecessary; the agitation over the question of responsible government, which convulsed the country, under the administration of Lord Metcalfe, would have been avoided. The Union Act vested in the Governor-General all the legal prerogatives that previous governors had possessed. The theory had previously been that the general policy of the colonial governments was determined in Downing Street, and that the governors were to see it carried out. Even Lord Sydenham, who came in the transition period, aimed to dictate the general policy of the government.

The statement that the French Canadians had a better government than any of their race enjoyed elsewhere may or may not be true; but it was a government which Lord Sydenham frankly avowed he would not have fought to sustain. The revolution which was evolved out of the rebellion is the most important event in the history of Canada, since the conquest. Papineau, the leader of the rebellion in Lower Canada could hardly have been painted in blacker colours if he had been the worst of ruffians. Yet, Papineau was a seigneur, a man of culture, and, in his way, a patriot. For a rebellion which failed in the field no one offers justification; but the beneficent revolution which it brought about we can all welcome. The situation was, indeed, full of difficulty; for not only did the official mind, in England, distrust responsible government in a colony, as the expression of independence; but the British minority, in Lower Canada, had a real dread of being placed at the mercy of a majority between whom and themselves there was an icy barrier of social isolation, which seventy years had done nothing to melt. These fears were, however, exaggerated. Responsible Government meant emancipation from Downing Street direction, in the details of colonial administration, and that the colonies in which it got sway would become virtually independent. All this was foreseen, and more than this was feared; but the error lay in supposing that colonies could be perpetually kept in leading strings and the local policy of Canada dictated from a distance of three thousand miles. An experiment of such perilous import as that of submitting the British inhabitants to the control of a French majority was happily avoided; but the escaping of this danger did not make the irritating mockery of elective institutions, with which Canada was then amused, the less galling. An elective Chamber there was, it is true; but this Chamber was constantly prevented passing any measure that was distasteful to the nominated Legislative Council. From the repeated application of this check, nothing but irritation and exasperation could ensue; and in the expression of that exasperation, foolish things were said and done.

If Papineau refused, and no doubt unwisely refused, to accept the revolution, which was to a large extent the work of his own hands, he did so because he believed it be incomplete. The nominated chamber might still remain master of the situation. Papineau was haunted by this fear, and several years later M. Morin, a political pupil of his, now become a member of the Government, prevailed on his colleagues to procure the passing of an act for making the Legislative Council elective.

Mr. Withrow says the French Canadians, after the Union, held the balance of power, and were able for a long series of years, by their compact vote, to turn the scale in favour of whatever party could best promote French interests. To the interests of their race and religion the French were keenly alive; but there is no warrant for the reproach that, for a long series of years, they acted as an oscillating balance between the two parties, for purely selfish ends. As a rule they

* A Popular History of the Dominion of Canada, from the discovery of America to the present time. By the Rev. William H. Withrow, M.A., D.D.