

LITERATURE.

HOW CANADA IS GOVERNED. *By J. G. Bourinot, LL.D., D.C.L.*
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The conditions of Christian work to-day require a minister of the Gospel to live in close touch with living issues. So many moral questions are affected by the enactment and execution of civil law that he must have an intelligent acquaintance with the legislative and judicial functions of government. For those who wish to know the essential facts regarding the administration of our public affairs this book will be a positive boon.

The author, Dr. Bourinot, is a writer of acknowledged ability, and on all matters pertaining to the constitution and government of Canada he is a competent authority whose opinion carries weight in the councils of the nation. As Clerk of the House of Commons, he has more to do with shaping the course of legislation than may be at first supposed. Hence the value of this latest production from his pen.

His aim has been to produce a work of popular character to make Canada's citizens acquainted with the nature of her government, so he has taken pains to explain all technical terms and present in lucid, simple form what is usually regarded as difficult or obscure.

In the first part he has given a historical account of the growth of the constitution, indicating the successive steps in political development by which a congeries of isolated provinces, with diverse interests, became a federal union—a nation with one feeling, sympathy, purpose, and life.

As our government is founded on that of Great Britain, a sketch is given of the Imperial government, and the nature of its control over Canada clearly indicated.

Then the nature of the Dominion government is shown as to its executive, legislative, and judicial functions in the management of revenue and expenditure, militia and defence. The departments of the provincial governments are treated in a similar way, special attention being given to the distinction between matters of federal and provincial legislation, and a list of the latter is given. The courts of law are described, and the different courses of procedure outlined with sufficient fullness. The sources and extent of the provincial revenues are clearly shown.

Special interest attaches to the part treating of the municipal government of the provinces, because the most marked differences are to be seen in the local circumstances, ways of thinking, and daily life of the people. Here the local neighborhood self-government of the oldest parish