

## NEW BOOKS REVIEWED.

The next best thing to the reading of a good book is, perhaps, the perusal of an intelligent review of it—to me it is always a source of lively satisfaction.—Gladstone.

### THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE SCOTTISH UNION QUESTION.—

By G. W. T. Omond. Cloth; 2s. 6d. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh. This valuable and interesting little historical narrative will prove attractive to the Scotch in Canada. The author has gathered together the facts connected with the early attempts to unite the two kingdoms of Scotland and Ireland and presents them in a highly readable book. Mention is made of the efforts at union, sometimes by force, and sometimes by marriage proposals, emanating from the English. The Scotch were never anxious to be united. But the serious attempts at legislative and commercial union were begun after the Stuarts ascended the English throne, and the particulars of these Mr. Omond presents with much diligence and skill. He wastes no time over the ultimate union in 1707, the story of which is embodied in most popular histories. But the earlier efforts are recounted at some length, and we cannot remember a more agreeable recital dealing with one point in a nation's history than this.

MANITOBA MEMORIES.—By George Young. Cloth; \$1.25. William Briggs, Toronto. This autobiography will be specially valued by members of the Methodist church as the record of missionary effort in our great western country. The portion which will be of greatest attraction to the general reader deals, in chapters 6 to 12, with the Riel troubles, especially those of 1869, and the murder of Thomas Scott, an event which had far-reaching political consequences in Canada. Dr. Young attended Scott in his last hours, accompanying him to the very place of execution, and promising Scott that the barbarous cruelty of the deed should be made known to the world. As the eye-witness of this and other high-handed crimes of Riel, the testimony of Dr. Young makes his book of no slight importance in our historical records. The illustrations greatly enhance the interest to the reader.

THE VOYAGE OF THE MAYFLOWER.—Cloth; \$1.25. E. R. Herrick & Co., 70 Fifth Avenue, New York. This is one of a series of "colonial monographs" artistically illustrated and bound, and presenting in brief space a picturesque account of the Puritan settlement. No unnecessary material is dragged in, and the book is ex-

actly what it professes to be, a brightly written summary of the facts concerning the exodus of Puritans from England. Each page is embellished with a drawing in black and white reproducing the old scenes and characters. Altogether a very well conceived and tastefully executed gift book.

### A SHORT HISTORY OF THE UNION JACK.

—By William Henry Holmes, B.C.L. Cloth; \$1.25. The Copp, Clark Co., Ltd., Toronto. Mr. Holmes says he began this work more for the diversion and instruction of the boys of his own family than with any thought of publication. Its expansion into the pleasant narrative-record now presented to the reader was, we can well believe, a labor of love. The author, in summarizing the great field of historical fact which is comprised in the story of our flag, aimed to "recite the most conspicuous incidents of the victories, the most striking features of the campaigns, or the chief points of interest of their scenes, or in the lives of their principal actors." The design has been well carried out and the book is a patriotic achievement well worthy of the Diamond Jubilee year, and of excellent merit as a literary achievement. The connection of Canada and individual Canadians with military and naval events of the Empire during this century is well brought out. There are eight appendices not less interesting to readers than the main portion of the book. The first is a calendar of victories; the second and third deal with Canadian battlefields and the memorials to brave Canadians in the shape of monuments; the fourth quotes the Duke of Argyle's description in 1879 of the view of Brock's monument on Queenston Heights; the fifth embodies the author's notes on the battlefield of Lundy's Lane, a locality with which Mr. Holmes is familiar; the others correct errors regarding military events which have been misrepresented by some United States writers. We commend Mr. Holmes' book cordially. It should be encouraged as a suitable companion for Canadian lads, who will be attracted by deeds of courage, both in British and colonial history.

POLSON'S PROBATION.—By James Mor-ton. Cloth; \$1.25. William Briggs, Toronto. This is a story of life in Manitoba, told with thorough knowledge of the surroundings and with considerable skill in working out a plot full of incident. A curious

will bequeaths to Frederick Polson a fine English estate. He is not to take possession for five years, and it during that period he is convicted of discreditable conduct the estate goes to Julius Hatton. Polson goes to Manitoba to spend the years of probation in prairie farming. Hatton turns up under another name, and endeavors to ruin his rival. He all but succeeds. Polson is tried and acquitted of killing an Indian, and then disappears. Hatton poisons the mind of the community against the absent one, becomes engaged to Alice Polson's sweetheart. But after a journey through the snow he takes refuge in Polson's place of retreat unknowingly, and, being delirious, divulges the whole plot. Polson is vindicated by extorting a confession from the wrongdoer, and marries Alice. The life in Manitoba is well described, and the story decidedly readable, better than a good many of the present products of fiction.

### WAR, FAMINE AND OUR FOOD SUPPLY.

—By R. B. Marston. Crown 8vo.; 243 pp.; colored boards; 2s. Sampson, Low, Marston & Co., Ltd., St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. Mr. Marston's book appeals to a wide circle of readers in this country—to those of the Imperial school, to those who want to see Canada take several steps forward as a food producer for the Mother Country, to those who comprehend the uncertain nature of the United States' relation to Great Britain. The author has, for the first time, fully outlined the dangers before Great Britain in a war where Russia and the United States would find it to their interest to oppose her. The titles of several of the chapters will indicate how thoroughly and how practically the ground has been covered: "Our Position in 1800 and Now"; "Could Our Navy Feed us?"; "Only a Precarious Week's Supply of Food"; "Some Lessons From the Present Famine in India"; "Fortified Granaries," etc. Accompanying the book are illustrations, one of them indicating the nature of Mr. Marston's proposals for national granaries and a diagram showing where British food supplies come from. Not from the beginning of the Imperial Union movement, fifteen years ago and more, has a more useful or practical book been written. On national grounds alone it ought to be widely read.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES AND FOREIGN COMPETITION.—By A. Williamson. Cloth; 311 pp. Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co., Ltd., London. Mr. Williamson is sceptical of free trade "as they have it in England." His book is a vade mecum for Conservatives and protectionists in Canada, because it examines Cobden and his policy from a hostile standpoint, while