

The tale of the "Canadian Brothers" commences with an outline of the state of affairs on the western frontier of Upper Canada, at the period of the American Declaration of War in 1812, and gives a spirited sketch of the military and naval operations of the opposing armies,—the historical characters introduced being the gallant general, Sir Isaac Brock, Commodore Barclay, the celebrated Indian Warrior Tecumseh, and several others of lesser note. Major Richardson has himself heard the din of battle, and his descriptions of the "foughten field" are written with the enthusiasm of his cloth, the contending hosts being placed by the magic of his pen vividly before the eye of the reader. With the result of that unequal struggle, however, our readers are familiar, and the principal interest is of course attached to the personal fortunes of the heroes of the tale, to whose adventures, as in duty bound, the author has devoted his principal attention, introducing a sufficiency of historical reminiscences to render the work one of lasting excellence.

We will not attempt even an epitome of the contents of the "Canadian Brothers," contenting ourselves with remarking that the plot is ably laid, and carried through with unflinching interest—heighted by the mystery attached to some of the principal characters. By the bye, to our judgment, the gallant Major indulges somewhat too freely in the mysterious,—the only fault, if fault it be, which we find in the volumes, except the unhappy attempt at the Caledonian dialect made through one of the military characters, whose uncouth Scotticisms have been, however, explained in a prefatory notice by the author. The dialogue is sound and argumentative, displaying a penetrating and highly cultivated mind,—the "mess table chat" is lively, piquant and witty—sometimes brilliant,—and the whole spirit of the work is of the most liberal *caste*, and, withal, bears throughout a thoroughly colonial character, although many of the *dramatis personæ* are the offspring of other lands.

Altogether the work deserves well of the Canadas, and the British Provinces in general, for in it is the colonial character vindicated from the aspersions hitherto too frequently cast upon it, as being secondary in sterling worth to that of the parent country—an idea the expression of which was as impolitic as its belief was erroneous and unjust. It is indeed obvious that the materials composing colonial society are of the best producible by the mother country, with occasional exceptions unworthy of remark, for the very fact of a wish to emigrate argues a desire to rise to a more elevated position, and there is no ingredient in the human composition more deserving of commendation than a just and properly directed ambition.

There is, too, another feature in the work we cannot justly pass over in silence.

We have more than once had occasion to allude to the ungenerous nature of the treatises upon the American social and political character, written by modern tourists, the evil tendency of which is fully apparent. The "Canadian Brothers" is free from this stain, and while justly censuring the Government of these states, for its almost unprovoked declaration of hostilities against the British Empire, at a moment when that power was engaged with her continental wars, he does not seek to conceal the honourable manner in which the officers of the Republic carried out the orders of those whom they were bound by the constitution and by their oaths to obey. In fact, we would not wonder if he should be thought to lean too favourably to the conduct of the Americans, a contingency the possibility of which has been foreseen by the author, and lest he should be supposed capable of yearning after undue popularity, on either side of the line, he has given the following explanatory facts, bearing reference to a correspondence with Sir H. Taylor, Principal Aid-de-Camp and Private Secretary to His late Majesty, in 1833, at which time it was intended to publish the work, with a dedication, by permission, to the "sailor king," and at a time when, it may be presumed, he had no intention even of visiting the American continent:

The Author has no hesitation in stating, that had it not been for the very strong interest taken in their appearance, by a portion of the American public in the first instance, these volumes never would have been submitted to the press of this country. Hence, to a corresponding feeling might under other circumstances, have been ascribed the favorable light under which the American character has been portrayed. From the dates of the above letters from the principal Aid-de-Camp and Private Secretary to His late Majesty, it will, however, be seen, that the work was written in England, and therefore before there could have existed the slightest inducement to any undue partiality.

That this is the case, the Author has reason to rejoice; since in eschewing the ungenerous desire of