

## 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.

**HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF ANNAPOLIS.**—By the late W. A. Calnek, member of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, edited and completed by A. W. Savary, M.A. Cloth; portraits, illus. and maps; 660 pp.; \$2. Wm. Briggs, Toronto. This fine volume is one of the best local histories yet issued in Canada. Nova Scotia is rich in historic material, and Annapolis is particularly suggestive in this respect. Judge Savary has completed the work which the late Mr. Calnek had spent years upon, and the volume now contains First, a history in nine chapters of the Acadians and the settlements of the Annapolis; the settlements of the townships of Annapolis, Granville, Wilmot and Clements, with a vast amount of genealogical data and local history in each case; a general history of the county up to the present; and much biographical information relative to the county members of Parliament from 1759 to 1867. It is a most valuable and complete book. Every descendant of the families mentioned therein will acknowledge the research and energy expended in its compilation. It will appeal first to readers throughout the Maritime Provinces, but every city and town library in Canada should have a copy, while those who collect Canadian books will be glad to add this to their literary possessions.

**THE PRIVATE LIFE OF THE QUEEN.**—By a Member of the Royal Household. Cloth, illus., 306 pp., gilt top. \$1.50. D. Appleton & Co., 72 Fifth Avenue, New York. This is a most timely and charming book. It comes out at a season when everyone is talking about Queen Victoria, but the only information one gets is about her public acts, state functions and other movements with which the newspapers have been filled. Her private life is a sealed chapter to the general reader. This book, however, supplies this want, and reveals the Queen in her family, social and home environments; shows us how all the habits and ways of the Queen are carried out, presents a complete view of the Royal Household; and thus incidentally indicates to us the Sovereign's tastes, virtues and prejudices. The book is not in the very least flunkeyish, neither is it critical in tone: simply a direct, pleasant narrative, full of information and detail, such as those who admire and respect Her Majesty will like to have. It is emphatically a volume for the home library, and man, woman, boy or girl will find a part of it useful and enter-

taining to him or her. One hears in Canada little or nothing of Court life which is not sensational and in most cases false, so that a book like this is a perfect revelation. It is evidently written by someone perfectly familiar with the Queen and the Court. Hardly a feature or phase of the Sovereign's life and personality is left untouched: the Queen's religion, her conduct as a mother and hostess; her friends, amusements, walks and drives; her pets, her industrious habits, her musical tastes; her fortune and expenditure and possessions; her kitchen, her table and her servants—everything is dealt with. We can imagine this book to have a large sale in Canada if the trade will bring its merits before readers. No publication now being issued about Her Majesty fills the place this does. The illustrations are good photographic reproductions, eleven in number, of her personal rooms and private household arrangements. The book is attractively bound in scarlet and gilt, and the type is pleasant to the eye.

**OLIVER CROMWELL.**—A study in personal religion; by Robert F. Horton, M.A., D.D. Cloth; gilt top, 208 pp.; \$1.25. Thomas Whittaker, 2 and 3 Bible House, New York. This new work on Cromwell has been very favorably received in England. It is something new in Cromwellian literature. It is undertaken to prove that to understand Cromwell "it is necessary to understand his religion and to sympathize with it." Dr. Horton has written a vivid story of the Civil War, following Gardiner as to the chief facts, and going into all the details regarding the death of the King and admitting the strength of the royalist position in law and public opinion. At all points he argues Cromwell's case as being dictated by conscience and his sense of religion. The Irish campaign, the author believes, Oliver undertook in "a hot fire of anger against the Papal Irish." We are told it is "the most painful and difficult chapter of Cromwell's history." Of that bloody campaign, it seems, he "had no qualms of conscience." The subsequent career of the soldier-statesman is one the friends of constitutional liberty find it hard to justify. The author says: "With those who, in spite of all the letters and speeches which are before us, continue of the opinion that Cromwell was impelled from the first by personal ambition, it is impossible to argue. Our business is, not to defend him,

but only to show that his action, step by step, is perfectly consistent with the other hypothesis, viz., that he acted under the most constraining sense of duty to his country and obedience to his God." One may not agree with this book, but will read it through from first to last. The literary style is terse and vigorous, and the author has proved that Cromwell, from the religious as from the military standpoint, was a strong man. In this way students of history will appreciate it, and as a book for the house it must become popular. By numerous quotations Dr. Horton lets Oliver speak for himself, and wastes no words on tedious disquisition and discussion.

**ESTABELLE, AND OTHER VERSE.**—By John Stuart Thomson. Cloth; gilt top, 114 pp.; \$1. William Briggs, Toronto. Under this modest title, the author has selected fifty poems, many of which have already appeared in the magazines, and made a little volume of them. They are all short pieces, dealing with nature in its various moods and the sentiment of love. There is a freshness and melody in the verse which will prove very attractive to those who like poetry, and who are aware of the special qualities which have given Canadian verse its vogue at home and abroad. If the author does not claim to be a great poet, he is at least, within his own chosen bounds, a true poet, and we can well believe that the volume may find many appreciative readers. The publisher has done his part with much simple elegance of taste, and, as a gift book alone, "Estabelle" will make its way.

**LAD'S LOVE.**—By S. R. Crockett. Paper; colonial edition, 75c. Copp, Clark Co., Toronto. This is a taking picture, as the author expresses it, of the "idylls, loves and tragedies of moorland life in Scotland well nigh half a century ago." It is a long story and those who have appreciated Crockett's other Scotch books will like this.

**THE LION AND THE LILIES.**—By Charles Edwin Jakeway. Cloth. William Briggs, Toronto. We have referred to this book before, and now do so again to wish it a wide circulation in Canada. The long poem is in rhymed pentameters and the theme is a patriotic one—the conquest. There are other equally patriotic verses among the shorter pieces, such as: "The Capture of Fort Detroit," "The Death of Tecumseh," "Laura Secord," etc. Appearing in the Queen's year the volume should find many readers.

**JOHN SAINT JOHN AND ANNA GREY.**—By Mrs. Margaret Gill Currie. Cloth. William Briggs, Toronto. This is a "romance of