

members know perfectly well that they have the widest discretion in the matter however much they may seek to humbug the country by their words.

Those who claim to be friends of the minority—and well might the minority in their case say “save us from our friends”—have been building their case on assumptions, some of them palpably unwarrantable, and all of them disputable. They will never accomplish anything in this way beyond prejudicing the popular mind against the real case, which wiser advocates might make out for the minority if they were given a chance. The question has been bedevilled by the clumsy fingers of bungling politicians; but not hopelessly. There is still open the way of enquiry, conciliation, arbitration, settlement with honour, and peace. If it is adopted, even at this late hour, in twelve month's time the school question will be a vanishing haze on the horizon; if it is rejected we shall see Canada's political sky darkened with sectarian and sectional issues for a decade at least.

Montreal, April 20th, 1896. JOHN W. DAFOE.

Dictionary of National Biography.*

THIS is a very interesting volume of the great dictionary. Passing over the Pococks, among whom are several names of importance, we note among the Pocockes that one who is best known, the celebrated orientalist, of whom a full and excellent account is here given. The next name we stop at is one of greater interest, Reginald Pole, Archbishop of Canterbury, brought into the place of the martyred Cranmer in the reign of Queen Mary. The name of the writer, Mr. James Gairdner, is a guarantee for the accuracy of the work; but he has also produced a most interesting and valuable article.

An important name, belonging to later times, is that of Pollock—representing a very distinguished family. And near this the name of Pollok, hardly known to the present generation, yet remaining to remind us of the uncertainty of the public favour. For there are a good many still alive who can remember the time when Pollok's “Course of Time” was thought to be of the same class with “Paradise Lost”; and now we should like to know how many men or women, under the age of forty, have read it. Ponet or Poynt, Bishop of Winchester, who helped in the translation of the collects of the English Prayer Book, receives notice, although without certain difficulties of his history being cleared up. Of the Pooles we may note two, John, the dramatist, and Matthew, the commentator, whose book (Poli Synopsis) is still of value.

But here we come to a more remarkable figure “the great Mr. Pope,” who was once thought to be one of the greatest of poets, and whom some profane persons now deny to be a poet at all! When we mention that the writer is Mr. Leslie Stephen our readers will know what to expect. Those who remember Pope's deformity and general disagreeableness will be surprised to learn that in childhood he was called the “little nightingale” from the beauty of his voice. As regards his claims to a place in literature Mr. Stephen remarks: “He had qualities which would have enabled him to give an adequate embodiment in verse of the spirit of any generation into which he had been born. He might have rivalled Chaucer in one century and Wordsworth in another. As it was, his poetry is the essence of the first half of the eighteenth century. . . . Warton first proposed to place Pope in the second instead of the first class of poets”—a sign of the change in literary sentiment.

Under Popham, Chief Justice, we have an allusion to the story of “Wild Darell,” but a practical denial of its truth. We are not quite sure. An excellent article on the great Greek scholar, Porson, written by one no less distinguished, who now occupies his chair, Professor Jebb, will give most people a great deal of information, and convey a much pleasanter impression of Porson than most of us possess. Everybody knows that he was a great giant in Greek scholarship, and most have heard that he drank too much; but we learn here how that, as a companion, Porson seems to have been “delightful when he felt at home, and liked the people to whom he was talking,” and other pleasant things.

* Dictionary of National Biography: Edited by Sidney Lee. Vol. XLVI. Pocock-Puckering. Price \$3.75. New York: Macmillan. 1896.

Anna Maria Porter is here chronicled briefly, and it is enough. Jane, her sister, gets quite properly a larger space. Yet who that reads the “Scottish Chiefs” as a man can understand how he should have tolerated the story as a boy? Passing on we come to Porteus, Bishop of London, and then to Baden Powell, in his day an eminent man of Science, also a participator in “Essays and Reviews,” so long forgotten, and a Professor at Oxford. A very pretty article by Mr. Leslie Stephen is devoted to Praed, who deserves, on many accounts, to be had in remembrance. A very different person, yet one no less worthy of notice, was Josiah Pratt, one of the founders of the Church Missionary Society and also of the Bible Society.

Two Prices should be mentioned, very different men, yet both of eminence, Bonamy Price, Professor of Political Economy at Oxford, and Richard Price, still famous as a contributor to Ethical Science and for his correspondence with Dr. Priestley. Priestley himself is here suitably commemorated, and the story of his life makes us understand some of the horrors of intolerance and suggests feelings of gratitude for the happier days in which our own lot is cast. We should note a very good, fair and interesting memoir of the poet, Matthew Prior, by Mr. Austin Dobson. We have also short but good notices of Miss Proctor and her father, B. W. Proctor (Barry Cornwall). The celebrated Puritan pamphleteer, Prynne, is well described. Wood says of him: “I verily believe that, if rightly computed, he wrote a sheet for every day of his life, reckoning from the time he came to the use of reason and the state of man.” He is said to have published about 200 books and pamphlets. The last name we are to mention is, in some ways, the strangest of all, that of the man who called himself Psalmanazor, whose real name is unknown. For years an impostor, he lived for years and at last died a saint. These are but samples of the rich contents of this volume.

BRIEFER NOTICES.

The Child Voice in Singing. By F. E. Howard. (New York: E. S. Werner. 1896.)—No one will call in question Mr. Howard's statement, that “the singing of children is more often disagreeable than pleasant. We put up with it, however, he says, in the case of children, when we should not tolerate the same in adults, because we make allowances. Such allowances, the author of this book says, are not necessary. The reason why children sing unpleasantly is that they are not properly taught, especially because teachers forget the difference between the qualities of the child's voice and the adults.” Mr. Howard here undertakes to describe the physiological characteristics of the child-voice and to give some practical hints for its management. We have examined these hints, and find them sensible and practical. They can hardly fail to do good.

Municipal Home Rule: A Study in Administration. By Frank J. Goodnow, M.A., LL.B. (New York: Macmillan. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co. 1895.)—There are very few subjects of greater or more immediate importance than that of municipal government. No one denies the unsatisfactory state of things in this respect; but most people seem to have settled down into a feeling akin to despair. So many plans have been tried, and there is little chance of any other being more successful. It is with the hope of contributing something for the improvement of municipal affairs that the present writer has produced the valuable volume before us. One great point that the author has set before him is what he calls the “delimitation of the sphere of action” of our municipal organizations. In doing this he eschews mere theory or *a priori* reasoning, and first endeavours “to find out exactly what is, by the present American law, the sphere of action of municipal corporations, which is recognized as local and quasi private, and in which, therefore, these bodies should more largely be uncontrolled.” The author considers the subject from both the legal and political points of view, and cites an immense number of cases which have been decided by the American courts. It would take too long to enumerate the different subjects here considered; but we can assure those who are interested in these questions, as all citizens ought to be, that they will find here much valuable matter for study.