

out manifest bias toward the author's own country. Nevertheless our General Brock gets his due meed of praise. The story of the burning of Washington is not one of which we Canadians are proud, but the stern deed was a retaliation for the still more barbarous burning of York (Toronto) and Niagara.

For the remaining part of this book we have only words of praise; the account of the religious and moral forces which assisted in "building the nation,"—the rise of Methodism (good portraits of Barbara Heek and Francis Ashbury and a picture of the first Methodist Church in New York are given), the growth of common schools and colleges, the progress of the temperance reform, of anti-slavery sentiment (the story of the underground railway is graphically told), the progress of invention, of literature and science, the diffusion of intelligence, the rising of a higher civilization,—these are the vital elements of national greatness which are too often omitted in writing a nation's history. The illustrations, 345 in number, are selected from the ample resources of this great house, and most of them are of unsurpassed excellence.

*The Burgomaster's Wife.* By GEO. EBERS; from the German, by Mary J. Safford. New York: W. S. Gottsberger. Toronto: Willing & Williamson. Pp. 351. Price 75 cents.

*A Word, Only A Word.* Pp. 299, and *Homo Sum.* Same author and publisher, and same price.

It is rarely that such profound learning and such imaginative power are found in the same person as are combined in Dr. George Ebers, Professor of History in the University of Leipzig. Ebers is, unquestionably, the first Egyptologist living. His great book on Egypt completely supersedes Champollion, Wilkinson, Lane, and every other book that we know on the subject. Comparatively few can afford these costly volumes, so for the benefit of the reading million he has told, we presume, all that he knows about Egypt in a series of

historical tales. "Uarda" (2 vols.), "An Egyptian Princess" (2 vols. with over 500 historical and critical notes), "The Sisters" (1 vol.). In the books above mentioned the learned author comes down to more recent times. In *Homo Sum*, indeed, he treats a transition epoch, the fourth century of the Christian era, and gives a graphic picture of the life of the eremite or desert saints of the peninsula of Sinai. The opening chapters remind one somewhat of Kingsley's "Hypatia." Beneath the monk's coarse hair-shirt throbbed the deep primal instincts of humanity, and the author shows in his graphic tale the intense humanness of the desert monks.

*Only a Word* is a tale of later times—the period of the stern and truculent Philip II. It describes the career of a wandering artist, subsequently a military adventurer, in Madrid, Venice, Rome, and at the battle of Lepanto and Siege of Antwerp. It is full of life and movement, and vivid battle scenes, but lacks the unity and high moral purpose of the following volume.

*The Burgomaster's Wife* one of the most characteristic, and most interesting and instructive of this author's works. Egyptian life and thought and religion are remote from our sympathies, but the heroic story of the struggle of Holland for civil and religious liberty against the stern oppression of Philip II. still stirs the blood like the peal of a trumpet. The whole interest centres in the siege of Leyden, the brave Protestant city—sublime in its despair—the most heroic defence recorded in the annals of history. Motley has made us familiar with the story of this most striking episode in the great duel between William the Silent and Philip the Grim, but it does not come home to our imagination and sympathies as in the graphic pages of Ebers. In these we seem to share the sufferings of the beleaguered and famishing town-folk. We see the stern burgomaster—stern as iron to his country's enemies—melted into an agony of tears as he sees his little child perishing of hunger. When heart and