

The fifth number of *North American Notes and Queries* is to hand. It is invaluable to the historian and to those interested in Canadian folk-lore, biography and kindred subjects. Published by Raoul Renault, Quebec.

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"A Feast of Good Things" is the title thoroughly deserved by "The Copp, Clark Company's" catalogue of books which embraces many volumes suitable for presents. The catalogue is nicely got up and worth writing for. It is sent free. The firm's address is Toronto.

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The sending of P. E. Islanders to South Africa to take part in Britain's struggle with the Boers, has inspired the publication in Charlottetown of two books that treat of the subject, and treat of it well, although in different manner. One is "Our Boys Under Fire" by Miss Annie Elizabeth Mellish; and the other is "War Sketches" by Hedley V. McKinnon. Both of the writers live in Charlottetown.

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"Our Boys Under Fire" was so well received that it quickly ran through a first edition of fifteen hundred copies, and now a second edition has been put upon the market. In the pages of this little history of the doings of Our Boys (which include the P. E. Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia quotas) is comprised the various incidents and experiences through which the members of the contingents passed,—from their mustering in to the return home of the first lot who left South Africa. The different events of their year's service are minutely recorded, and their hardships and glorious achievements are graphically told; it is surprising what a large amount of matter, most of it being valuable for reference, the writer has got together inside the covers of her book. All who are in any way interested in "Our Boys" who went out to fight the Boers should procure a copy. Paper covers 50 cts.; stiff cloth covers 75cts. Published by The Examiner Publishing Company, Charlottetown.

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In *War Sketches*—which, by the way, is admitted to be the prettiest example of book printing yet accomplished in Charlottetown—the author has set down a series of pen pictures, which, to tell the truth, are very cleverly done indeed. They will interest the reader, they cannot fail to do so, both because of their style of writing and also because they vividly illuminate many scenes that by those outside the Service, are never guessed at. There is a vein of pleasantry apparent in most of the sketches; there is also evidence that the hard lessons of the war made more than a superficial impression upon the mind of the writer. Of the Gordons he speaks words of manly, sincere praise; of the Boers far otherwise. The other incidents which furnish chapters in this little volume are all ably treated. Under the heading of "Five minutes in an Armoured Train" occurs the following:

"In the evenings we usually gathered in the car to talk about the war, and what we would like to eat; and were a stranger to drop in suddenly he might have found the conversation, if not very instructive at least amusing.

"Weary, let's challenge them to a game of whist."