

Book Notices.

Ten Years of Upper Canada in Peace and War, 1805 to 1815; being the Ridout Letters, with notes by MATILDA EDGAR. 8vo, pp. 389. William Briggs. \$2.00.

Among the very best material for history are the contemporary letters of intelligent observers. Such is the character of the book before us, which thus furnishes an admirable contribution to Canadian history. The earlier letters describe the school-boy adventures of a couple of intelligent Canadian youths. The later ones, of 1811 to 1812, give a graphic picture of London life in "the days of the Regency, when Napoleon ruled Europe, and Wellington was earning his first laurels; when Mrs. Siddons still ruled in Drury Lane, and Scott and Byron walked through London's streets." The condition of the country through the stress of foreign war and menaced trouble in Canada, made it a very anxious period, whose spirit is reflected in these letters.

Immediately thereafter the scene changes, and the letters describe with all the vividness of first-hand experience many of the tragic scenes of the frontier war of 1812 to 1815. There are numerous vivid side-lights flashed upon the scene, which give the narrative a wondrous verisimilitude, for which we seek in vain in the formal histories of the war. Letters from Mr. Ridout, senior, disclose very fully the state of society, the growth of opinion and progress of events in Little York.

The closely printed appendix gives a first-hand account of the captivity of Mr. Ridout, afterwards Surveyor-General of Upper Canada, among the Shawanese Indians, with *fac simile* of a letter from George Washington, to which he owed his preservation. The book is handsomely printed, has two portraits and two folding maps. One of the best features of this book is the accompanying connecting

links and annotations from the pen of its accomplished editor, Mrs. Edgar.

Modern Ideas of Evolution as Related to Revelation and Science. By Sir WILLIAM DAWSON, C.M.G., LL.D., etc. 12mo, pp. 240. London: Religious Tract Society; and Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax.

It is a remarkable fact that the little town of Pictou, N.S., should be the birth-place of the two most distinguished Canadian *litterateurs*, both of whom are college presidents, Dr. Grant, the President of Queen's University, and Sir William Dawson, President of McGill University. No Canadian writer is better known than Sir William Dawson. His deserved reputation in this respect gives to his utterances on a subject lying upon the disputed border-line between science and revelation a special value. He is one of those scientists who is also a devout believer in revelation and a competent student of the Scriptures in their original tongues. He boldly challenges the fascinating and often delusive theory of evolution, as accounting for all the differentiations in species. With at least an equal authority with that of Mr. Huxley, he states that the theory of the latter as to the development of the American fossil horse is purely arbitrary. He draws a strong distinction between agnostic and theistic evolution, but the latter he formally avows to be essentially distinct from Darwinism or Neo-Lamarckianism. The book is deserving of the most careful study by both scientists and theologians. The *Saturday Review* well remarks, "If there is anything calculated to arrest the cock-sure young scientist, who is always the young man in a hurry, this book will do it." An evidence of its recognized value is that it is in its fifth edition.