
BOOK NOTICES.

History of the 10th Royals and of the Royal Grenadiers. By Thomas Edward Champion. Toronto: Hunter, Rose Co.

Those who have a patriotic love for Canada and are keenly watching the steady progress of this young country, cannot fail to be struck with the increasing activity in all branches of its literature. "The History of the 10th Royals and of the Royal Grenadiers" will attract much attention, both because of its subject and because of the clear and concise style in which it is written. There is evidence of much careful research, reaching back to the early days of the militia, and Simcoe's first Parliament which met at Niagara, Sept. 17, 1792. From 1861-62, when the 10th Royals was organized under Mr. F. W. Cumberland, the vicissitudes of the regiment are related with unflagging interest, accompanied by an official list of all the changes and appointments made from year to year, rendering the volume valuable as a book of reference. Not a little interest centres round the retold tale of the gallant behaviour of the "Grens" in the North West Rebellion, 1885—a tale which bears being oft repeated—and in the splendid efficiency the regiment has attained of late years under the able command of Lieutenant-Colonel Grasett. Numerous illustrations of the succeeding officers; a very complete appendix, and a gaily colored binding indicative of the Grenadier's uniform, goes to make a valuable addition to Canadian History compiled in a very readable and attractive form.

* * * * *

Poems and Stories. By Lucy Webling and Peggy Webling. Toronto: R. G. McLean.

In turning the pages of this dainty volume in blue and gold, noting here an

exquisite bit in rhyme and rhythm, there a delicious witticism, or a picture in a word, one finds difficulty in realizing that the writers are very young girls—the older only in her middle teens, the younger yet in short frocks. The poems are by Lucy, the younger sister, and fill the first third of the book. It is rarely the reviewer finds happier task than in studying these self-revealing glimpses of a young life

"Standing with reluctant feet
Where the brook and river meet,
Womanhood and childhood sweet."

There is the ringing mirth of childish laughter, the glad assurance of girlhood's charm, the soft, minor strains from the soul of the woman to be. Lucy Webling has visited many places, and merited the praise of many people. That her nature is both receptive and responsive, we find evidence in the harvest of beauty gathered from every passing scene. "A Canadian River Song," and "My Prairie Poem," breathe in each cadence their own perennial charm. But, while singing the songs of other lands, still the young heart turns to England, and exiles from that dear home will sound the depths of the following lines:

AFTER AN ABSENCE.

"When I came back to England, April skies
Were white with cloud,
And violets opened, like the earth's glad eyes,
And cuckoos called aloud.
I saw the gentleness in your dear face again,
And watched your eyes, grown grave and clear,
And joy within my heart touched hands with pain,
You looked to find a smile, and found—a tear.

Some thought, at seeing me, had made you white,
And made me dumb;
My brain was reeling in one mad delight,
For, oh, my Fate had come.
I noted tenderly your new-found tenderness,
I saw not earth or sky above,
But just your eyes, the while my eyes confess,
I looked to find a friend, and found—a love."