

Even the North American Redman had his "Totem" painted or embroidered on his trappings and his weapons. National emblems are an evidence of patriotic fervour, and a national flag is the incarnation of intense sentiment. He explains the origin of national flags, and shows how the British Jack is the basis of the design of the Stars and Stripes. The word "Jack" is derived from the surcoat or *Jaque* which was worn by ancient knights over their armour, and which bore the blazon or sign either of their lord or of their nationality. The Red Cross of St. George was adopted and worn upon the *Jaque* by the English Crusaders as the English sign, and this passed later into the Red Cross of England. Still later, the three crosses of England, Scotland and Ireland were combined to form the Union Jack, which, with the addition of the Canadian coat of arms, forms the Canadian ensign.

Mr. Cumberland gives a great deal of interesting history concerning this flag, its victories, its conquests, and the liberties it has secured—all explained by numerous illustrations and coloured plates. The story is told sympathetically, loyally and patriotically, in a simple yet powerful style. The author is to be congratulated upon the excellence of the work which he has so opportunely given to the Canadian public.



THE CHEVALIER D'AURIAC.*

S. Levett-Yeats' latest story "The Chevalier D'Auriac" has been running serially in some Canadian newspapers and now appears in Longman's Colonial Library. It is a French tale of the times of Henry IV. and the Holy League, and describes the adventures of a young nobleman who wins the love of a beautiful lady and the friendship of his king by courage and faithfulness. In character it resembles very much Weyman's "Gentleman of France" and "Under the Red Robe," and some of Gunter's historical novels. It is remarkably full of action, and always inculcates a very high ideal of individual conduct and behaviour. The author has mastered the art of story telling and is fully worthy to be classed with Weyman, Crockett, Parker and Anthony Hope—is perhaps more powerful than some of these.



IN KEDAR'S TENTS.

One of the best novels of the month is Henry Seton Merriman's "In Kedar's Tents." † Not only is it a delightful romance and full of vigorous adventure, but it is artistic and quaintly humorous. Fred. Conyngham, a careless, easy-going, English bachelor, voluntarily shoulders the guilt of a married friend who has unintentionally killed the son of Sir John Pleydall during a Chartist riot. To escape arrest Conyngham goes to Spain and enlists under the Queen Regent. Here he meets with many adventures, finally winning fame and a wife. Spain, torn by the strife between two factions, is a very unsafe place to live in, and consequently the young Englishman is placed in many dangers which try his daring and his courage. The Spanish character, male and female, is quaintly described and dissected, and the book is studded with peculiar remarks of the following taste, where the author describes two soldiers passing the afternoon playing cards: "For the Spaniard will be found playing cards amid the wreck of the world, and in the intervals between the stupendous events of the last day." And again where he makes the wily old priest say: "Ah, my friend, when a woman believes in a man she makes him or mars him. There is no medium." The

* The Chevalier D'Auriac, by S. Levett-Yeats, author of "A Galahad of the Greeks." London: Longmans, Green & Co.; Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co.

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