

One of Mr. Parker's books "Pierre and his People" suggests a Review. A number of tales, through which we trace the adventures of a French Canadian half-breed in his wanderings through the great lone land of the Hudson's Bay Co., the Canadian North West—nothing more. We think the half-breed an unusual specimen of his kind; he is pretty and takes his beauty from his Indian side. Now, he is cruel and treacherous, planning murder; at another time, he is chivalrously lending his aid and risking his life for his friends. The best characters are made younger sons of English families who here come to the colony for adventure and perhaps fortune. The adventures of the half-breed gambler are colored in some cases with Indian tradition. Some of the tales are slightly interesting but the whole would hardly invite second reading.

Sir Gilbert Parker Bart was quite recently the guest of the Canadian Club of Ottawa at luncheon in the Russell House. The Canadian Club, as we know, is non-political and numbers among its members our most distinguished men, including quite a galaxy of brilliant intellects. Its laudable purpose is the advancement of the best form of Canadian patriotism, the development of the higher and finer national ideals. In complimenting the club, the author of "Pierre and his People" advocated a national art gallery. He appreciated the progress of the country during the last twenty years and looked to the best results from its passion for education.

Though Sir Gilbert was born in Canada on the 23rd of November, 1862, he is of English descent and while professing some attachment for this country, he seems to have a predilection for the land of his fathers for he made England his home and became a member of the parliament of the United Kingdom. He was knighted by King Edward in 1902 and is a prominent social light in the imperial capital. He is an anti-annexationist. In fact he has but little sympathy with our southern neighbors, and as a follower of Mr. Chamberlain in the country of his adoption is an ardent imperialist. Speaking before the Canadian Club he advised British settlers for Canada, a preferential tariff, and expressed his hope of closer imperial relationship, though he did not propose any scheme for its accomplishment or prophesy much special benefit to Canada therefrom. He also enlogised the notable—ought we to say notorious—ex-colonial secretary to some extent.

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