

JOHN BROWN IN CANADA.

To the Editor.

DEAR SIR,—I have read the December number of your excellent magazine. It is brimful of instruction and of interesting articles. In the article, "John Brown in Canada," we are indebted to Mr. Hamilton for much valuable information *re* John Brown and the convention held in Chatham in 1858. In this article I observe an error, which I hasten to correct. The esteemed writer refers to a Canadian contribution of money, some \$400, toward the surviving members of John Brown's family, then living at North

Elba, N.Y. It is true that nearly \$400 was subscribed by some of my friends in Montreal in the spring of 1860, but it is equally true that the Brown family never realized any benefit from it, in consequence of a temporary revulsion of feeling, resulting from exaggerated stories of what was then termed the "*Pottawa omie Murders*." I withhold the names of the subscribers to that fund, to save their descendants the blush of shame they would now feel for the cowardice and shortsightedness of their ancestors.

A. M. ROSS.

TORONTO.

BOOK NOTICES.

The History of British Columbia. By ALEXANDER BEGG., C.C., F.R.C.I. Illustrated. Toronto: William Briggs. Montreal: C. W. Coates. Halifax: S. F. Huestis. 568 pp.

A more interesting work on Canadian History would be difficult to find. It is well written, comprehensive, yet concise, and on every reader it will make a vivid impression of the strange history and the wonderful resources of the Pacific Province. The early discoveries of Vancouver and other early navigators are told in a fascinating manner. The seizure and destruction by Spanish marines of the British establishment at Nootka, and the final relinquishment by Spain of all claims to British Columbia, make a most interesting chapter of the early history of the country. So also does the narration of the curious details connected with the San Juan dispute—a dispute which, owing to the comparative inaccessibility of the Province at the time, received scant attention in Canada, and the strange details of which have until the publication of Mr. Begg's volume remained almost unknown to even well-informed Canadians. One of the most charming chapters in the volume is that describing the wonderful overland journey made by Alexander Mackenzie, the discoverer of the great river bearing his name, from Lake Athabasca to the lonely Pacific coast. It possesses all the interest attaching to Stanley's explorations in Africa. The gold excitement in British Columbia in the late fifties, of course, receives the attention which it deserves. So also does the career of the North-West Fur Company and the Hudson Bay Company in British Columbia, Washington and Oregon. Justice, too, is done to Sir James Douglas and other men famous in the early

history of the Province. The history is brought up to date, and throughout the author carries with him the close attention and interest of the reader. The illustrations are numerous and generally good, and a map, showing the routes followed by early explorers, aids much in explaining the text of the earlier chapters.

Notes of Pictures and Paintings. Letters on Italian Art. By EMILINE A. RAND. Toronto: William Briggs.

This small book is one of the most charming contributions to the literature of art. In a series of letters dealing with paintings in the National Gallery at London, the author, with remarkable perspicacity and excellent judgment, describes the development of Italian art, and affords the reader charming glimpses of the leading Italian painters and their work.

The New Womanhood. By JAMES C. FERNALD. New York, London, and Toronto: Funk & Wagnalls Co. 369 pp.

This volume, though dealing with a somewhat hackneyed subject, is interesting, and is written with boldness and good taste. Marian Harland furnishes the volume with an introduction.

The Emancipated. By GEORGE GISSING. London: George Bell & Sons. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co., Ltd. 456 pp.

Denzil Quarrier. By GEORGE GISSING. London: George Bell & Sons. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co., Ltd. 341 pp.

At Last. By MRS. MARIE ELSIE LAUDER. Toronto: William Briggs. Montreal: C. W. Coates. Halifax: S. F. Huestis. 310 pp.