tered our people and tried to place us under , foreign flag. But I maintain that any Canadian author has a right to challenge the motives and the conduct of the men who did these things. I see no reason why any American of the present day should reel offended at reflections on the actions of men who lived go years ago. While endeavoring to present an absolutely truthful narrative of the War of 1812, I have not felt it necessary to refrain from criticizing the conduct of the men who were responsible for the contest or who took part in it." Surely this is reasonable? The people of the New England States, who lived at the time, denounced the war in terms more stinging than those of Dr. Hannay, and they refused to participate in it. The more the records are studied the less justifiable does the war appear, and American writers themselves during the past ten years have gone far to reverse the old verdict concerning the events of 1812 -that they were rendered necessary by British tyranny and that they were a series of brilliant achievements by the American armies. Both these contentions are utterly false. The War of 1812 was a demagogues' war, a useless, cruel invasion of an unoffending and peaceful country, and it resulted in the most signal defeats on land which the

Americans ever sustained. The conduct of our forefathers was noble. Any Canadian lad who is brought up in ignorance of the war and its results will be a poor Canadian, and as the battles were chiefly on Ontario, soil it is natural that Dr. Hannay's work should appeal to Ontario readers especially

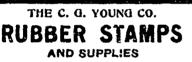
This history is readable and inspiring. It is written, naturally, with some contempt for the "authorities" who have hitherto held forth on the subject without serious contradiction, and some of whose lies have passed current for truth during a generation or two, but it is an accurate vigorous and patriotic volume. It brings into prominence events like the capture of Fort Niagara, which are seldom brought out in the usual books, and it is by far the best and most coherent account of the struggle ever attempted within the compass of a single volume.

Three of the correspondents who went around the colonies with the Prince and Princess of Wales are writing books on the tour. It is understood that Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace is to write the official account of the journey. This work is likely to have a singularly full and fine series of illustrations.

## THE KING'S PRINTER.

The office of King's printer is an an cient as well as a highly responsible one Its first occupant was William Cuxton, who was succeeded by Wynken de Worde, in the reign of Source VII. From that date until the present day the dignity has been conterred upon only 31 persons. The firm of Lyre & Spottiswoode, whose imprint appears on unumerable obtions of the Book of Common Prayer, originated with the Baskett family, the patent being renewed to them by George II in 1739. Robert Buskett was succeeded by Charles Eyre, the great grandfather of the present Mr. Briscoe Eyre. Not being a practical printer, he obtained the cooperation of Mr. William Strahan, who subsequently represented Malmesbury, in the House of Commons.

In those days Strahan used to receive Dr. Johnson, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Boswell, and others of the same frateraty in what is now the private office of the drain Middle New Street. One room is pointed out in which Mr. Strahan assisted the Doctor in the compilation of histamous dictionary. Andrew Strahan succeeded William, and he was followed by his nephew, Andrew Spottiswoode, whose son and successor, William, a famous mathematician and President of the Royal Society, was buried in Westminster Abbey, in 1883.



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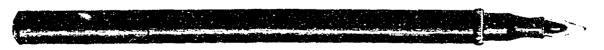
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