

the vain and selfish woman. Perhaps of all his intimates, the little deformed minister (whom, bye the bye, we have often before encountered in the walks of fiction) has the strongest hold upon David, but to a nature such as his, the formation of his character owed little to external aid. In the latter part of the book the influence of Amiel's "Journal Intime" is distinctly seen. The hero's reflections are in fact so much in the same strain that we are sometimes at a loss to distinguish quotations from original thoughts.

One of the principal characters in this part of the work, is, we think, inferior to the rest. David's little son, Sandy, inherits his father's tendency to echo Mrs. Ward, and his precocious speeches consequently lack spontaneity, the one thing needful in child wit. He is unreal and not to be admitted in the company of our child favourites.

The aim of the book is unmistakeably this, to tell the history (as conceived by Mrs. Ward) of the struggles of a human soul through the mists of doubt, ignorance and sin, to the freedom of the perfect man, independent in thought and action, yet owing allegiance to the highest form of moral and intellectual law. In this rather than in the story as such, lies the chief attraction of the work, which owes not a little of its interest to the vividness and realism of the scenes brought before us, and the fidelity and truthfulness of the minutest details.

L. S.

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"A short sketch of the Presbyterian Church in Canada" is a small volume by Dr. Gregg, of Toronto, and, to all concerned in the welfare of Presbyterianism, should prove interesting, firstly on account of the author's reason for writing the book, viz., "considering that it was due to the memory of those who planted the Presbyterian Church in British North America and of those through whose labours it has by God's blessing grown from small beginnings to its present extent, it seemed proper that its history should be recorded." Beginning with the settlement of the Huguenots, the arrival of the first Presbyterian ministers, and the establishment of the first Presbyteries at Halifax and Truro, the writer traces in brief outline every step in the development and

growth of that body, so firmly united and which now wields such a mighty moral influence in Canada. The book is supplied at half cost to those entering the ministry.

✦ College News. ✦

A. M. S.

THE first open meeting of this academic year was held in Convocation Hall on Saturday, Nov. 19th, and the present executive have much reason to congratulate themselves upon the result. It was the most successful event which has occurred during their tenure of office, and to all who attended will be a pleasant memoir of the executive which will so soon be counted among the past. The largest assembly, including students and citizens, that ever gathered at any public Alma Mater meeting was present, and everyone was well repaid for his attendance, both by entertainment and instruction. All were in good humour. The jokes were seasonable and suitable and the order was excellent. The chairman was noticed to laugh frequently, and only once did he relapse into his stern philosophical mood, when a Sophomore attempted to give a reading and the audience have so far failed to understand whether it was philosophical or sentimental, whether poetry or prose, but that may be accounted for when we remember that the reader said he had not prepared it. Before he next endeavors to recite he might be able to strengthen his lung power and drop his peculiar attitude which may be natural but not very taking.

As the names of the members included in Mr. Mowat's notice of motion had not been posted up they will not be accepted as members till next meeting. He also gave notice of motion that at next meeting he would move that Dr. Knight be made an honorary member. Mr. Ford gave a notice of motion referring to the payment of expenses incurred in connection with the torchlight procession.

Mr. Rowlands, '93, auditor of curator's accounts, wanted to report but was not permitted till next meeting.

A communication was read from Toronto Medical School desiring a representative to their dinner. This was referred to the Medical students.