



KINGSFORD'S HISTORY OF CANADA.*

The fourth and final volume of Dr. Kingsford's History has just issued from the press. It brings the record down to the conclusion of the Peace of Paris, and, in some respects, the most interesting and important portion of this great work. From its inception the author has proceeded calmly in the independent investigation of every event with which he has had to deal, unswayed by tradition or prejudice or any motive save that of ascertaining the truth and placing it fairly before his readers. What the three preceding volumes contain has already been succinctly stated in the pages of this journal. The first volume closes with Frontenac's first administration; the second ends at the death of M. de Vaudreuil in 1725; the destruction of Oswego by Montcalm is the last event related in the third, and the present volume commences with the return of the Marquis to Montreal. In a note which follows the opening chapter, Dr. Kingsford returns to the subject of the Indian massacre at Oswego. He had found difficulty in weighing the evidence for and against De Vaudreuil's responsibility for those treacherous outrages. While to the majority of the French officers it was utterly repellent to give loose rein to the brutal passions of the savages for loot and murder, he has reason to believe that the proceeding was permitted by the governor's authority. It was a feature of the tactics pursued to conciliate the Indian allies in this way. The murderous assault on the British troops, after the capitulation of Fort William Henry, is also unfortunately to be laid to the charge of the French commander. "I would gladly, if I could," writes the historian, "acquit Montcalm of blame on this occasion; it appears to me impossible to do so." And then he points out in all their wars it had been customary for the Canadians to give full sway in the hour of victory to the bloody instincts of the Indian. In this case he maintains that there was no attempt, though the victorious troops were close at hand, to intervene for the protection of the unarmed British soldiers. "The women and children were seized before the faces of the French escort. Many were killed. Those of the troops who in any way resisted were tomahawked." At the same time the difficulty of Montcalm's position is revealed by the fact that, when he demanded from the Indians the release of the prisoners that they had taken, he could only obtain them by paying a ransom. In his letter to the metropolis De Vaudreuil insisted that the capitulation had been observed.

A noteworthy characteristic of Dr. Kingsford's history is the close attention that he gives to the policies of the European governments, on whose relations to each other the course of events in Canada mainly depended. He depicts with masterly freedom the state of the English court and nation when the elder Pitt assumed the reins of power. He cites two remarkable and convincing testimonies to the shameful corruption that prevailed in the middle of the last century in the British Parliament—the witness in each case being the secretary of a Prime Minister. Mr. Roberts, who served Mr. Pelham in that capacity, told a man of rank, who told Wraxall, that it was part of his duty to distribute largess regularly to the members of the House of Commons, as the price of their party allegiance, while Mr. Mackay, Lord Bute's factotum, had paid a thousand pounds to forty and five hundred to eighty members of the same cause for voting in favour of the Treaty of Paris. The meanness of the Newcastle ministry was shown by its making Admiral Byng the scapegoat of its own unpopularity. His fate is all the more interesting to Canadians for the indirect association with it of the valiant De Galissonniere, the learned and courteous host of Linnæus's friend, Peter Kalm. Dr. Kingsford skilfully uses the despicable incapacity and pettiness of Newcastle as a foil to set off the greatness of his political hero, William Pitt, whom he ardently admires. A man, whose memory is revered by none, detested by many, the Duke of Cumberland, the historian undertakes to rehabilitate, but he does not altogether deny the butcheries of Culloden. "It is," he adds, "not now generally recollected that, owing to his popularity, the flower called 'sweet William' was named after him." In outlining Wolfe's European career, he tells the story of his attachment for Miss Lawson, and shows what an influence it had in softening his character. He defends him from the charge registered against him in Lord Mahon's history of having disgusted Pitt with his ill-bred vaunting on the eve of his departure for America. The authority for the story (Lord Temple, Pitt's brother-in-law) Dr. Kingsford deems little worthy of credit. "What is there," he asks, "in Lord Temple's career or character to give weight to his statements? We have in contradiction to it Wolfe's well-known life, his worth, his good sense, his patriotism, his high standard of personal honour, his devotion to truth and duty." He shows that Wolfe's influence in the army was appreciably humanizing, and that, though he was in Canada when Minden was fought, he had clearly contributed to the victory by the improved tone which his precept and example had introduced into the 20th regiment. The "Min-

den yell," which has disconcerted foes in many a field, must have originated with men of fine *morale* as well as of grand *physique*.

Every detail of Pitt's campaign for the conquest of Canada is described by Dr. Kingsford with his habitual clearness and force. He makes us thoroughly acquainted with the chief actors, their intellectual and moral equipment and their fitness or unfitness for the tasks assigned them. Though we have read the story of the war in the pages of many writers, we have followed the narratives of none of them with such interest and profit as these admirably full and lucid chapters. From his multifarious reading the author has illustrated the stage and course of the struggle with many a side-light that elucidates points hitherto ob-



MR. WILLIAM CASSILS.
Chairman Ball Committee, St. Andrew's Ball.

scure. He has evidently spared himself no pains in seeking the very fountain heads of knowledge on every vexed question, and he is fearless in recording facts and drawing from them reasonable inferences. He is severe in dealing with boastful incapacity, unscrupulous fraud, treachery, cowardice and cruelty, but he tries to be fair even towards the faulty and to excuse where he cannot justify. In the case of Abercrombie, for instance, he is inclined to think that the severe censures of some critics are scarcely deserved and that his repulse at Ticonderoga was due to mistaken cal-



JOSEPH BIRSE, Engineer G. T. R.
Drowned in railway accident, 4th December.
"Died at the post of duty."

culations and obstinate courage rather than to sheer incompetency. He does justice to Montcalm as well as to De Levis, and explains to what circumstances the latter owed his greater popularity. There is not a leader or sub-leader on either side who does not stand forth, a more distinct and real figure, from Dr. Kingsford's portrayal. He takes the opportunity of correcting the wrong impressions that long prevailed and still, perhaps, prevail in certain quarters as to the character and policy of Haldimand, whom Mr. Brymner's official researches have divested of an *affable* ment of traditional prejudice that kept the real man long concealed.

Not the least instructive portion of this volume is that which treats of the *Regne Militaire* of Murray's administration. It is a vivid picture of the Canada of that period that Dr. Kingsford places before us. On one question he clears away a mass of misrepresentation. The documents—French documents—addresses, petitions, etc., that he reproduces

(mainly from the *Viger memoire* of Abbé Verreault) prove beyond dispute that the French-Canadian community was treated with every consideration in those early years and that its members were well aware that they lived under a freer and more generous rule than that of their old masters. If time and space permitted we would gladly quote largely from this part of the book. We must, however, content ourselves by sending our readers to the work itself. It is a work which no earnest student of Canadian history can afford to be without. The charts and diagrams, illustrative of marches, sieges and battles, add considerably to its value. The notes are rich in manifold information, much of which will be found elsewhere, only in books not accessible to ordinary students. An ample index completes the history.

In concluding this hasty and inadequate notice we would just say that some time ago, in connection with the offer of a prize for a school history of our country, the secretary of a literary society wrote to us suggesting that it would be much wiser if Mr. Kingsford were handed \$5,000 to prepare such a work. We trust that he will be encouraged to write the history of the British period, to which, as he points out, the published volumes are merely introductory. To do the work worthily—bringing the record down to the present—would require at least four more volumes. Mr. Sulte wrote the history of his own people in eight volumes. A history of Canada for English readers should be as thorough, and Dr. Kingsford is the man to undertake the task. But meanwhile, why should not the school authorities of the Dominion unite in asking him to write a textbook, seeing that they are not satisfied with those that exist already. We entirely agree with our correspondent that such would be the wiser, more practical and less troublesome course.

THE PINE-TREE COAST.*

It might not be unreasonably imagined that the book which bears this title offered an entire change of subject from Dr. Kingsford's weighty themes. Yet, on the contrary, a considerable portion of it might do duty in his appendix. For here we meet with old book friends—Champlain, Marc Lescarbot, Latour and D'Aulnay de Charnisay, and Baron Saint Castin, and Sir William Pepperell and Shirley—and are quite at home amid their chosen haunts. Those who have been fortunate enough to have Mr. Drake for guide in visiting "nooks and corners of the New England coast" or have been initiated by him in New England Legends and Folk-Lore, will know what a treasure of things, old and new, is here placed at their disposal. The early history of Maine is so interwoven with that of our own land that without a knowledge of its colonization and development we miss some of the most romantic and pregnant passages on our own annals. Its topography abounds in memorials of a two-fold past—Penobscot (which Mr. Drake persists in regarding as the real site of Norumbega), Pentagoet, Charnisay's sometime fortress; historic Castine, Kittery and Saco, with their memorials of the Pepperell family, and many another spot around which clusters associations of the years of struggle. All these are illustrated by pen and pencil in "The Pine-Tree Coast." The half-tone photo-etchings are from originals furnished by Mr. H. G. Peabody, of Boston, Mr. Harry Brown and Messrs. Jackson and Kenney, of Portland.

LIFE AND TIMES OF SIR LEONARD TILLEY.

Arrangements have been made with Mr. James Hannay, editor of the *St. John Evening News*, to write the life and times of Sir Leonard Tilley, Governor of New Brunswick. The volume will be one of the most valuable historical works ever issued in the Dominion, and will cover the political, social and industrial history of the past seventy years. This period is the most important New Brunswick has seen. The struggle for responsible government was brought to a successful termination and the provinces formed into a confederation in that time. The story of these two great events, the personal history of Sir Leonard Tilley, the building of roads and railroads and the general development of the province will be the conspicuous features of the book. No one is better equipped with the information necessary for such a work than Mr. Hannay, and in its production he will have the active assistance of Sir Leonard Tilley and other prominent men. The volume will comprise upwards of 500 pages, will be printed with new type on good paper and will be well bound. Mr. John A. Bowes, St. John, N.B., is the publisher.

* The Pine-Tree Coast. Samuel Adams Drake. Illustrated. Boston: Estes and Lauriat.

Personal and Literary Notes.

W. Blackburn Harte is at any rate an industrious writer. In the November *Forum* he had an article dealing with French Canada politically; in the November *New England Magazine* he wrote about stage coaching in the Adirondacks, and in *Belford's* for December he appears with a story of New York literary and boarding house life. In *Drake's Magazine* for January he will have a Canadian story, the scene of which is laid at Coteau Landing.

Among the unpublished Thackeray manuscripts now offered for sale in London are a note-book containing 1,200 fragments of unpublished verses, a scrap-book with 400 tracings and sketchings, and an album of sketches.

Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney's next piece of fiction, a story of a quiet New England neighbourhood, will have for its title "A Golden Gossip."

* The History of Canada. By William Kingsford, LL.D., F.R.S. (Canada). Vol. IV (1756-1763) with maps. Toronto: Rowse & Hutchinson; London: Trübner & Co., Ludgate Hill. 1890.