

nothing, she is awake to the tragedy of her broken life. Poor, beautiful, dear Marjory!

"That 'Marjory Darrow loved too well' is the conclusion of the whole matter. If 'death walked' in the garden with her, we do not know. Or, when her doom and destruction walked there ghosting her lover at every step, there was nothing to warn her. The blood-red poppies held their peace. They were just as beautiful for all the blackness of her lover's heart. Nature has solace for us and great tenderness (yes, indeed she has!), but no warning. Our prudence must come from experience, from history.

"The poem might have been closed with—

The scarlet sun went home,

for that is the real ending. Or it might be left as it is—

Gone, thou art gone,
Dear.

That is no ending at all. The gates of emotion are left open. The weaving is left with a raw edge. Whether or not this is good art I am uncertain. But I think it is all right as it stands."

My venerable friend "W" contributes a brief, good-humoured paragraph to the sum of remark that has been excited by Marjory. There is a charm in one who being so old is yet so young. Your tributes to Tennyson were pleasing to me. The world is bereaved of greatness in these years, since such as Browning and Tennyson sleep under the stones of Westminster.

Cherryfield.

PASTOR FELIX.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.*

WHEN the founding of a Royal Society in Canada was first mooted some ten or twelve years ago, the suggestion was greeted with jeers and scoffs by philistine journalists; and even many sober and sensible writers doubted the wisdom of establishing a Society or Academy of "Immortals," organized and modelled after Old World patterns. The credit of the suggestion is due to the Marquis of Lorne, then Governor-General of Canada, and the wise and generous encouragement of the liberal arts and sciences ever manifested by that popular viceroy during and since his term of office is not among the least of his claims to our grateful remembrance. The suggestion of the Marquis was speedily acted upon; the organization of the Society was fully completed in May, 1882, when the first meeting was held in Montreal; and, in due time, "The Royal Society of Canada for the Promotion of Literature and Science within the Dominion" was incorporated by Act of Parliament. The objects of the Society as set forth in the preamble of the Act are as follows: To encourage studies and investigations in Literature and Science; to publish transactions annually or semi-annually, containing the minutes of proceedings at meetings, records of the work performed, original papers and memoirs of merit, and such other documents as may be deemed worthy of publication; to offer prizes or other inducements for valuable papers on subjects relating to Canada, and to aid researches already begun and carried so far as to render their ultimate value probable; to assist in the collection of specimens with a view to the formation of a Canadian museum of archives—ethnology, archaeology and natural history. The Society was, and, we believe, still is, composed of eighty members, all the original members having been nominated by the Governor-General, and consists of two departments, representing Literature and Science, divided into four sections as follows: 1. French Literature, with history, archaeology, etc.; 2. English Literature with history, archaeology, etc.; 3. Mathematical, Physical and Chemical Sciences; 4. Geological and Biological Sciences, the number of members of each section being in general limited to twenty, the regulations however providing that under certain circumstances the number may be increased to twenty-five.

These preliminary remarks will, we trust, not be deemed unnecessary; for, although the Society has been in existence upwards of ten years, and its Transactions for that period have been published in nine large volumes, we imagine that comparatively few of our readers are familiar with its constitution and objects, or have given more than a passing notice to the reports of its meetings. Notwithstanding the scoffs and doubts with which its founding was at first greeted, the Society has justified its existence from the very start, and, year by year, its work has grown in interest, influence and undoubted advantage to the country. It cannot be expected that with a limited income at its disposal and considering the expensive character of its publications, the Society can distribute its Transactions as freely as Parliament distributes its blue-books. Indeed, even if practicable, such distribution would be absolutely wasteful. But although the home circulation of the Transactions is necessarily limited, copies are annually sent to similar societies and to the great public libraries throughout the world and, as the papers read pertain chiefly to the history, institutions and resources of our country, they cannot fail to make Canada better known, not only to our fellow colonists in other continents, but to foreign nations who may find it advantageous to cultivate trade relations and intercourse with us, and to capitalists everywhere seeking profitable undeveloped fields for investment. The

* "Proceedings and Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada for the year 1891." Montreal: Dawson Brothers, 1892.

newspaper deals, for the most part, with passing incidents of the day; but occasionally an article is seen in the daily press suggesting new fields for investigation or for commercial enterprise or for material development. The suggestion of such articles is rarely found in the record of current events, but often in the transactions of Learned Societies where the material for them is found ready to hand. In his eloquent opening address the President, Principal Grant, pointed out many ways in which the Royal Society of Canada did good service to the state, and he made reference to the value and importance of its reports. "Anyone," he said, "who looks into the volumes of 'Proceedings and Transactions' already issued, will see that there is no cause for discouragement. The results of the work of the Society are there manifest. Had it not existed, many of the papers that are of most interest to Canada would not have been written. Others would have been scattered through the transactions and journals of two continents, labelled, of course, as British, French or American. Our bulky annual volume is now sent regularly to all the great public libraries of the world, and literary and scientific men learn that Canada is not wholly a barbarous country, but that it is giving some little contribution to learning. Far-seeing, practical men in other countries who desire reliable information respecting the geology, minerals, products, antiquities, history, and institutions of Canada, now know where to find them."

It might be interesting, did space permit, to compare the first of these volumes, published in 1883, and containing the report of two sessions' work with the large and exceptionally handsome volume before us containing the Transactions of 1891. If the purely literary quality was perhaps more conspicuous in the former, the more useful quality of patient original research distinguishes the latter; and, moreover, it must be remembered that at the meeting of 1891, and such is the case at every meeting, many papers were read in the literature sections that do not appear in the published Transactions.

In one of the many reviews which, in the course of a long and busy public life, Mr. Gladstone has found time to write, he characterizes a book as large, but not bulky. "For," he says, "the word bulky insinuates the idea of size in excess of pith and meaning." There may be some force in this dictum of the venerable statesman, but Principal Grant certainly did not use the word in the passage we have quoted in any such disparaging sense, and we, too, may apply it to the volume before us without implying that its size is, in any degree, in excess of its pith and meaning. Indeed, if it had been less "bulky" and less weighty in a double sense, it would not have lain so long, not unnoticed, but shamefully neglected, on our table. The "indolent reviewer," and, in fact, any reviewer, is inclined to postpone dealing with a book like this, more on account of its shape and size and weight than the nature and quality of its subject matter. One cannot attack it in an easy chair or turn over its leaves while reclining on a couch. It must be approached formally, handled respectfully and treated with gravity and consideration.

Let us first glance at the "Proceedings," containing a report of the business of the Society, in which matter of much interest and importance will be found: the report of the Council, the addresses of the President, Principal Grant, and the Vice-President, Abbé Ladame, and the valuable reports of the many affiliated and corresponding local societies. These societies display a commendable, and, indeed, a surprising, activity, not only in literary culture, but in what is of the very utmost importance, local scientific and historical research throughout the Dominion. From Newfoundland to British Columbia these independent but auxiliary societies are making continual additions to our stores of local scientific, historical and archaeological knowledge; and the permanent value of their researches can hardly be over-estimated.

The President's address was eminently practical and suggestive, pointing out wherein the Society was weakest, in order that the members might "consider how best to give it strength for effective work." Among other changes, Dr. Grant proposed an increase in the number of members. "Our section should include the professors of English literature in every considerable university in the Dominion. . . . It should also, I think, include representatives of secondary schools, and young Canadians who have done good work in English literature and who would be willing to take trouble to bring the section into relation to Provincial educational forces. . . . Some of the most eminent mathematicians, chemists and physicists in Canada are not in the sections devoted to their sciences, and some of the most eminent biologists are not in the other science section. I may frankly say that I see no good reason for the exclusion of such men." In concluding, Dr. Grant paid a merited compliment to Dr. J. G. Bourinot, now President of the Society, from its inception its energetic and efficient honorary secretary. "To no one," he said, "is our comparative prosperity so due as to Dr. Bourinot; from first to last he has taken the heavy oar, and it is hardly too much to say that but for his devotion and untiring industry the Society would hardly have continued to exist in its entirety."

To adequately review the many papers included in the "Transactions" is manifestly impossible, and a mere enumeration of titles and writers would be unprofitable. The French section, which always merits careful consideration, we pass entirely over, merely mentioning M. David's eloquent tribute to the late Hon. P. J. O. Chau-

veau, one time President of the Society, and the equally eloquent "Réponse à M. David," by the poet and orator M. Louis Fréchette. In the English Literature section the longest and, to the general reader, probably the most interesting paper is Dr. Bourinot's "History of Cape Breton." This valuable addition to Canadian historical literature has been recently published in a separate volume and was ably reviewed in these columns a fortnight ago by Dr. S. E. Dawson of Ottawa.

It is exceedingly gratifying to notice the number of papers dealing with the history, language, manners, customs and arts of the native tribes of the Dominion. This is as it should be. The native races are disappearing or losing many of their distinctive characteristics. Some, like the Beothiks of Newfoundland, are already extinct. Too much diligence cannot, therefore, be used in collecting and preserving the memorials of these most interesting peoples whose place will soon know them no more forever. The first of these papers "Grammaire de la langue Algonquienne (Première partie)," by the Abbé Cuoq, promises to be a very valuable addition to philology and comparative grammar. Dr. George M. Dawson has an able paper which he modestly entitles "Notes on the Shuswap People of British Columbia," and in which he treats of their tribal subdivisions, villages and houses, graves and burial places, customs and arts, history, language, mythology, folk-lore and superstitions, concluding with a long list of place-names in the Shuswap country, giving the Indian name, the adopted or map name, and the meaning of the Indian name. Dr. Dawson also contributes an "introductory note" to Mr. Alexander Mackenzie's "Descriptive Notes on Certain Implements, Weapons, etc., from Graham Island," Queen Charlotte Islands, B.C. But perhaps the most interesting contribution to Indian history is Rev. Dr. George Patterson's paper on "The Beothiks or Red Indians of Newfoundland." Dr. Patterson follows the thread of this slight but pathetic history from the notices of the earliest voyagers till the melancholy story closes with the death of the last known survivor in 1829. The race is now as extinct as the Dodo and the Great Auk. "Such a total destruction of a people is almost unparalleled. Other peoples have been cut off, but portions of them mixing with others have perpetuated, if not their name, at least their blood, but to them might be applied the language of Logan regarding himself: There runs not the blood of a Beothik in the veins of a single living creature. Nations have disappeared, but their material works or institutions remain as memorials of their genius or their power. But only a few rude stone implements testify to the skill of this people. Other races have had to see themselves dispossessed of their territory, but the names remain, testifying on the face of the country to the language of its former occupants, but not a storm-swept headland on the coast of Newfoundland, not a stream or mountain in the interior, recalls the speech of those who once possessed the whole."

The gentlemen of the science section must pardon us if we are almost silent about their contributions to the volume. Nothing that we could say would, we are sure, arouse any general interest in the "Absorption Spectra of Solutions" or the "Symbolic Use of Demovire's Function" or "Parka Decipiens," or "The Orthoceratide of the Trenton Limestone of the Winnipeg Basin." These and many other subjects equally alluring are treated of by some of the foremost scientists of Canada, and they will doubtless prove interesting and instructive to the specialist in the various departments of science to which they belong.

ART NOTES.

IN referring to the death of the late distinguished English sculptor, Woolner, the London *Times* says: "The dominant characteristic of Woolner's work, whether in sculpture or in poetry, is its entire conscientiousness and thoroughness. He spared no pains to get at the heart of his subject and to master every detail that could illustrate or embellish it. His workmanship was as thorough as his study. His time and labour were freely expended in the pursuit of perfection, without regard to the pecuniary considerations that too often take precedence of all else. There are no pot-boilers from his hand, and nothing in the long catalogue of his works that does not display truth of sentiment, purity of taste, and consummate executive ability. In life, as in art, he was the uncompromising foe of shams, of claptrap, and of superficiality. To other men's work in all departments he applied no other standard than that by which he habitually tested his own, and, while indulgent and even tender to honest effort, however imperfect its results, he was a severe critic of pretentious mediocrity. To those who won his confidence he was a firm and generous friend, and to many whose only claim was their misfortune he proved a liberal benefactor. His racy conversation, his pungent criticism, and his rich store of anecdote and reminiscence, drawn from a long and varied experience, will long dwell in the memory of those privileged to enjoy his friendship. Happy in his friends, yet more happy in his family, endowed with keen perceptions and abundant vitality, and blessed with the simple and healthy tastes which are the true sources of perennial enjoyment, he had much in common with the great poet who has just passed away, and whose intimate associate he was through long years of intellectual activity."