

## MR. RATTRAY'S "THE SCOT IN BRITISH NORTH AMERICA."

Few subjects of study are so interesting and picturesque as the national character. What its ingredients are, how they have come together, and in what manner they have fused, or are fusing themselves, into the national life of a people are never-failing questions of interest. In the case of Canada, as indeed of all countries of a composite colonization, the inquiry, moreover, is of vast importance, as the results of the analysis cannot but be of service in directing the future line of the country's progress, and in stimulating the development of those characteristics which conduce most to the success of its people. But it is not for these reasons alone that we hail the forthcoming of Mr. W. J. Rattray's book on 'The Scot in British North America.' More especially we welcome it on account of the pleasure we anticipate in perusing a work of a great national character by one of the most accomplished native writers and best informed men of our young country. Little as he may be personally known, for his modest ways and quiet manner of life have rarely brought him into contact with the people, Mr. Rattray has by the few long been known as perhaps the ablest of the leaders of intellect in Canada—and to him this magazine and many of the journalistic enterprises of Toronto owe much for literary and advisory services, always generously and often disinterestedly rendered. The subject which is now occupying Mr. Rattray's pen, moreover, is one with which he is peculiarly competent to deal; and from a perusal of the advance sheets of a portion of the work, issued as a prospectus by the publishers, we can warmly bespeak for the enterprise the hearty encouragement of all Canadians. We say *all* Canadians, because, though the work professes to deal with but one element—a large one indeed—in the nationality of Canada, it will, nevertheless, treat so much of the political, material, social, and intellectual life of the country, and promises to be written in so philosophic a vein, and in

such a cosmopolitan spirit, that no Canadian who loves his country and is proud of its annals can fail to give the work his most cordial support. 'The old maxim,' says Mr. Rattray, in his introductory preface, "no one can put off his country," has lost its international value in a legal sense; but it remains valid in regard to character, tendencies, and aptitude of the individual man.' What these traits are in the Scottish character, and what influence they have had in contributing to the intellectual and material progress of Canada are the subjects of Mr. Rattray's inquiry. To read the author's initial chapter alone—issued in the prospectus already mentioned—is to be impressed with the rare qualifications which Mr. Rattray possesses for the work he has undertaken; and we are confident that the book will take high place, not only in Canada, but wherever interest is felt in historical facts respecting the 'Scot Abroad,' and in the triumphs of energy and industry, integrity and perseverance, gathered by laborious research, and narrated with rare literary skill.

We shall, perhaps, best be doing the work service, before it is further proceeded with, by calling attention here to the author's and publisher's urgent request for information respecting Scottish settlements in various parts of the Dominion, and for any material of a biographical, historical, or statistical character likely to be of service in the preparation of the work. There are, doubtless, many of the readers of *THE MONTHLY* who can supply something, and thus aid in the production of a work of much national interest. The book, which we understand is to be brought out in four divisions, at \$2 each, is to be issued from the publishing house of Maclear & Co., Toronto—a firm-name well and favourably known in the Province,—and it will be the product, mechanically, of Messrs. Hunter, Rose & Co., from whose printing house the beautiful specimen pages before us have been issued.