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LITERARY NOTES

CAMPBELL'S DRAMAS.

NO one may safely deny that the Canadian interest in poetry is on the wane. It may be quite true that the smaller poets find it just as difficult to sell their little volumes today as they did fifteen years ago. Nevertheless, there are more volumes published annually and the total annual sales are three or four times what they were at that remote period. The kindly reception given to Lampman's volume, to Campbell's collection of poems, to Dr. Drummond's different publications and to Service's rugged jingles, affords sufficient proof that Canadians are not blind to the pleasure to be derived from the reading and recitation of native verse.

In the field of drama the appeal is to a high intellectual taste. Not every one who appreciates the pathetic tinge of Drummond's *Habitant* poems, or the robust colour of Service's ringing verse, can appreciate the finer beauties of Heavvsege's

nor popularity, but each has followed his own endowment with patience, sincerity, and altogether for the sake of poetry. Mr. Campbell stands with the most sincere among Canadian poets. He occupies a place peculiarly his own as one who ponders the questions of existence deeply. These are the predominant qualities in the four tragedies which appear in the present volume.

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THE CANADIAN MAGAZINE.

TURNING to the January number of the *Canadian Magazine*, we find Mr. Goldwin Smith's name again as the writer of the leading article, "The Crisis in India." While the writer concludes that the end must come, since a race cannot rule forever in a land in which it cannot rear its children, he shows the doubtfulness of any effective "rising" at present. "Native princes have armies more numerous than efficient, but none of them have shown any disposition to



Mr. Wilfred Campbell.

"Saul" or Mair's "Tecumseh," two of the most noted dramas ever issued in this country. Yet both have had many admirers. It must have required considerable courage on the part of a publishing house to issue a volume of dramas by Mr. William Wilfred Campbell, even though Campbell may be considered one of the most carefully read poets of the day. It will be interesting to note how the public receive it.

Professor Horning, writing in the *Globe* says: "Campbell's work is very interesting, 'Mordred' especially being a capital production. The author is entitled to the greatest credit for his attempts in the field of lofty tragedy, and we as Canadians may justly be proud of him and wish him success in any further efforts."

Miss MacMurchy in the *Toronto News* is even more enthusiastic and writes as follows: "All the qualities of these dramas are on the side of making great a national literature. Mr. Campbell's work in dramatic poetry has power and dignity. He deals seriously with great issues. It is fortunate for Canada that Canadian poets have not put money first

revolt or apparently have as much to gain as they have to lose by revolution." Mr. Thurlow Fraser gives a fearsome account of "The Head-Hunters of Formosa." Sir Charles Tupper shows no sign of age or enervation in his vigorous reply to Senator Miller, regarding a certain interesting "Incident of Confederation" and Mr. H. J. P. Good contributes a highly instructive article, "The Modern Olympia." Indeed, the last-named feature contains a paragraph of criticism on the conduct of certain members of the "American" colony attending London's Olympiad of 1908 which makes piquant reading. "They made insulting remarks, so we are told," (the women of the United States colony) "while some of their companions made use of language both blasphemous and obscene. And these rowdies were received and honoured by the President, the first man of their country. It is to the credit of the best English papers that they took the more dignified course and declined to comment on or even to report such abominable behaviour." Verily, the Olympiad of 1908 does

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