

THE LAST FORTY YEARS.

CANADA SINCE THE UNION OF 1841.*

I.

IN the two noble volumes before us Mr. Dent has written a work of national importance. They contain a masterly review of the leading events in our political and social life, from the Union of Upper and Lower Canada in 1841, down to the present time. Among the great events treated are the establishment of Responsible Government, the Secularization of the Clergy Reserves, and the Abolition of Seigniorial Tenure. The causes leading to Confederation, and the results of that great measure are described with graphic fidelity. The work gives evidence of careful original inquiry and research.

Mr. Dent is master of an easy and graceful style. There is about him nothing of the literary "dry-as-dust." He writes terse, vigorous, idiomatic English. In characterization of public events and political parties he is singularly fair. We have, upon careful examination, not discovered any partizan bias. The pen-portraits of public men are very racy and readable. Whether the subjects would enjoy his frank and piquant criticism is another question. The mechanical execution of the book is a credit to Canadian manufacture. The ample double-lead page, the wide margins, the numerous admirable engravings, of which we give several examples, and the excellent presswork, are a worthy embodiment of a work of remarkable merit. A valuable chapter on the progress of literature and journalism in Canada is a feature which we especially commend, and the fifty pages of index greatly facilitate the consultation and study of the work. We hope for both author and publisher that patronage which their patriotic efforts deserve.

We purpose to trace briefly some of the great national events which Mr. Dent treats with much fulness, making copious citations from his interesting pages.

* *The Last Forty Years—Canada since the Union of 1841.* By JOHN CHARLES DENT. 2 vols. Pages 392, 649 : 76 full page engravings. Toronto : George Virtue. Twenty parts. Price fifty cents per part. Bound in two volumes. Cloth, gilt, \$12.