

from such a source one is perforce reminded of the youth who, when convicted on the clearest evidence of having made away with his father and mother, appealed to the judge not to hang a poor orphan.

But this by the way. Our present concern is with this latest "Short History" by Professor Bryce. The author has long been known as a diligent student, and as an industrious worker in connection with an important educational institution. His book on Manitoba was a valuable contribution to the history of that Province, and prepared us to look forward with some expectation to the appearance of the present work, which was announced some time since. We have read it with care and attention, and if we cannot speak of it with unstinted praise, we can at any rate vouchsafe to it a cordial welcome as a vast improvement on its predecessors. It is at least a book which its author's posterity need not feel ashamed of his having turned out, which is more than could truthfully be said of those alluded to in the foregoing paragraph.

The first half of the book is beyond all comparison the best, and it is on this portion that the author has evidently bestowed the most pains. The accounts of prehistoric and early America and the ancient inhabitants of Canada are, generally speaking, full and accurate. The author's archaeological researches have here stood him in good stead, and he has laid bare a store of material not readily accessible to general readers. It may perhaps be said that this part of the work is somewhat out of proportion to the sequel, but the just balancing of the various sections of a previously unwritten history is no easy task, and is indeed one of the greatest difficulties which an author has to encounter in dealing with more or less recondite materials. In no book intended for popular use has this part of our history been treated with anything like the same amplitude of detail. The publications of learned societies are practically unavailable to the common run of readers, and Professor Bryce has here rendered a valuable service with much care and judgment. He has presented all the most essential results of modern historical research, and has tabulated his authorities for the use of those who may wish to prosecute further enquiries. To have accomplished so much is to have done a good deal of useful work.

With respect to the more modern portions of our history, the author has not been equally successful. His summary is often bald and even crude. His treatment of many important events of the last half century is altogether inadequate to the subject-matter. On some of these events he has bestowed but little study, and there are not a few which it seems to us that he has wholly failed to understand. It is clear, for instance, that he has failed to grasp the main features of the rebellion of 1837, and that his examination of the authorities which he quotes has been of the most desultory and perfunctory kind. The same may be said of his treatment of the events immediately following the union of the Provinces in 1841 and the struggle for Responsible Government. It would appear as though he had grown weary of his task, and anxious to get it off his hands. This is to be regretted, because those events form the key to

much of our current politics, and without an adequate comprehension of them no one can be said to have a just understanding of the present attitude of Canada before the world.

One other remark we feel constrained to make. It has already been hinted at, but it needs to be emphasized; and it is this. The author is not master of an attractive style. "To make history picturesque," he says, in his preface, "must be the aim of the modern historian." This is true, but the Professor has not realized his ideal. Some of the most stirring events are set down in language as dry as the multiplication table. This is a serious defect, for it will prevent the facts from being readily taken in and assimilated by the memory. We notice, too, a good many minor errors, some of which may charitably be attributed to slips of the pen and of the press, but it is well to call attention to them with a view to their elimination from subsequent editions. On p. 9, we are told, apropos of the boundary question, that "in 1833 President Jefferson made a proposition to Lord Palmerston," etc. President Jefferson had ceased to be President Jefferson about a quarter of a century before the date indicated, and for seven years had slept his last sleep beneath the mausoleum of Monticello. It was of course President Jackson who made the proposition to Lord Palmerston. Again: the names of Sir William Johnson and his son are everywhere mis-spelled, and the spelling is not even uniform, being sometimes Johnston and at other times Johnstone. The name of Lord Durham's successor is also mis-spelled, as is likewise that of Sir Allan MacNab. The inhabitants of Castile are spoken of as "Castillians" (p. 2), and on p. 5 we are informed that in 1881 the Dominion contained no less than 3,715,492 native born Canadians. The author doubtless knows that "less" is an adjective of size and not of number. The author of *The Scot in Canada* is mentioned on p. 281 as "A. Rattray." The late Mr. Huntington is thrice referred to (p. 251) as Mr. Huntingdon. We have marked several score of such mistakes as these—none of them perhaps of very great importance, but their aggregate is large, and in such a work accuracy in such matters is desirable.

We shall probably find time to say something more about this book in a future number.

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Editor ARCTURUS:

THE Bill creating the above university has passed its third reading, and will doubtless become law; but whether it will ever be an accomplished fact is matter of grave doubt. There are many reasons why it should not, and I propose to point out a few grounds on which the founding of such a useless and superfluous institution should be strenuously resisted. In stating my objections as a Baptist to the scheme, I wish to avoid the abuse and personalities to which some opponents of the measure have resorted, and yet frankly and fearlessly to express my views (and the views also of the vast majority I believe of Canadian Baptists) on this question.

1. No demand has ever been made by the Baptists for such a bill or such a university.

2. The matter has never been honestly or openly brought before the denomination and considered by them. Excepting the