

"The Clansman." An Historical Romance of the Ku Klux Klan. By Thomas Dixon, Jr. Illustrated. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co., Limited. Pp. 374. Price, cloth, \$1.50.

We had the pleasure of reviewing in this magazine Mr. Dixon's striking tale of reconstruction times in the Southern States, "The Leopard's Spots." This book is the second of a series planned on the race conflict. It develops the story of the Ku Klux Klan conspiracy. It was one of the stormiest periods of American history. The book is one of absorbing interest, even though we may not agree with all of the author's positions and conclusions. Few things are more dramatic than the tale of how this mysterious organization akin to the *Vehmgerichte* of Germany, spread terror through the South. "In the darkest hour of the life of the South, when her wounded people lay helpless amid rags and ashes under the beak and talon of the vulture, suddenly from the mists of the mountains appeared a white cloud the size of a man's hand. It grew until its mantle of mystery enfolded the stricken earth and sky. An Invisible Empire had risen from the field of Death and challenged the Visible to mortal combat. How the young South, led by the reincarnated souls of the Clansmen of Old Scotland, went forth under this cover and against overwhelming odds, daring exile, imprisonment, and a felon's death, and saved the life of a people, forms one of the most dramatic chapters in the history of the Aryan race."

"History of the War of 1812 between Great Britain and the United States of America." By James Hannay, D.C.L., author of "A History of Acadia," etc. Toronto: Morang & Co., Ltd. Pp. xv-372. Price, cloth, \$2.50 net.

The only work that can compare in copious treatment and illustration of this period in our country's history is Benjamin J. Lossing's "Field Book of the War of 1812," but that book was written from a frankly American, as this is from a frankly Canadian, point of view. Dr. Hannay is by general and special training admirably adapted for the writing of such a book. For over thirty years he has been actively connected with the press, has written a history of Acadia and many historical papers. He gives

us the result of much original research. He shows how utterly unjustifiable was the waging of this war, which was precipitated for political reasons by the Madison administration. Canada at the time had less than half a million people, whereas the United States had over eight millions. Our southern neighbors thought all they need do would be to send emissaries into Canada, when the people would fall into the arms of the United States. They were very speedily undeceived. Then, as after the War of the Revolution, from the fortress city of Quebec to the remotest extremities of Canada the people sprang to the defence of their homes and hearths. With very little assistance from Great Britain, then engaged in the struggle with the arch-despot Napoleon, they repulsed invasion after invasion of our country. Not one foot of Canadian territory was retained by the Americans, and the original cause of the quarrel was not even mentioned in the treaty of peace. Never were more strikingly illustrated the words of Lord Lansdowne that war is the most ferocious and futile of all means of settling difficulties. This book is very handsomely illustrated with portraits and other engravings, diagrams, and maps. It is written in a readable style and throbs with patriotic feeling.

"Sidney Smith." By George W. E. Russell. New York: The MacMillan Co. Toronto: Morang & Co., Limited. Pp. vii-242. Price, 75 cents net.

The life of the wise and witty Sydney Smith is one that well deserves to be retold in this admirable series of English Men of Letters. He was a distinct force in letters. The founding of The Edinburgh Review marks an epoch in British literature. But he should be remembered still more by his championship of reform movements, and of catholic emancipation, when narrowness and bigotry were the too general characteristic of his fellow churchmen. It is a pity that the wide-minded divine was not as generous in his treatment of "the people called Methodists," and of missions as he was of the Roman Catholics. He winged the shafts of his banter and ridicule at the new sect and the great movement which have since belted the world. He will be remembered best by his genuine wit, which flashed and sparkled like a diamond. We shall put this book in the hands of a clever writer for fuller review.