

THE CANADIAN METHODIST MAGAZINE.

JUNE, 1876.

HUGO GROTIUS.

BY THE REV. DANIEL RICHARDS, M.A.

GREAT men are influenced by the age in which they live. The history of the world for the time is well presented in the history of a few leading men. Grotius, the great champion of religious freedom in the sixteenth century, well illustrates this idea. We will briefly reproduce his life.

Let us look at Europe at about the year 1560. Philip II. of Spain, a gloomy inhuman prince, had ascended the abdicated throne of his father Charles V. and become sovereign of Spain, the Milanese, the two Sicilies, and all the Netherlands. Elizabeth, a strong-minded princess, sat on the throne of England. Charles IX. governed France. Pope Paul IV. filled the chair of St. Peter. Mary ruled in Scotland; Ferdinand I. in Germany. America, though discovered, was a vast unknown of forest, prairie, lake, river, wild beasts, and wilder men. John Knox was thundering in Scotland; Luther had been dead fourteen years; Calvin and Michael Angelo had four years more to live; Melancthon was dying; Beza was in his prime, and Arminius in his cradle; and the Council of Trent had been in session fifteen years. The *Reformation*, the great event of the sixteenth century, had spread