

Book Notices.

The Slave in Canada. By T. WATSON SMITH, D.D. Collections of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, 1896-98. Volume X. 8vo. Pp. 161. Halifax, N.S. : Nova Scotia Printing Co.

In this volume Dr. Smith, the accomplished author of "History of Methodism in the Maritime Provinces," has added an important chapter to the "History of Canada." This subject has heretofore been almost entirely overlooked. Dr. Smith has collected with great research about everything that can be known as to the existence of slavery in what is now British America and Bermuda—a somewhat sombre story, but one whose record is necessary to the completeness of the annals of our country.

Slavery in Canada was of French institution. The first slave sale recorded in the colony, says Dr. Smith, was that at Quebec of a negro boy from Madagascar by David Kertk in 1628 for fifty half-crowns. In the English-speaking communities of Canada slavery is chiefly an inheritance from the American colonies, especially from Virginia and the Carolinas.

Upper Canada has the honour of being the first country in the world to abolish slavery. The conscript fathers of the Province, as they assembled in their first parliament at Newark, 1793, enacted that all persons previously held in slavery elsewhere should be made free on arriving in that Province. "Thus," says Dr. Smith, "the name Canada to many a negro on American soil, in sufferings worse than death, came to be a synonym for freedom, home, and life." The pole-star became the cynosure which beckoned him on to liberty. After a time the Underground Railway found its terminus in Canadian soil, and amid adventures more thrilling than any of romance, many a sable son of slavery won his way to the emancipating air of Canada.

Japan in Transition. By J. STAFFORD RANSOME. 8vo. Pp. x-261. Fifty-one illustrations. Three maps. New York : Harper & Bros. Toronto : William Briggs. Price, \$3.00.

Our Japan mission is the oldest and most successful of the Foreign Missions of our Church. It has just celebrated its semi-jubilee. This fact will give special interest to this latest book on "The Mikado's Empire." The author was the special correspondent in Japan for the London *Morning Post*. He gives a remarkable picture of New Japan, which to most readers will come like a revelation. When Japan was first opened to western science, English and German instructors were eagerly welcomed. Now they have learned all these can teach them, they are relegated to the background with the cry, "Japan for the Japanese." Four years ago it seemed the height of presumption for the plucky little kingdom to attack the great empire of China. That shock began the disintegration of China, and sent Japan to the front as one of the great nations of the world. This book is of such importance that we shall give it more detailed treatment in a future number.

Facing the Twentieth Century. Our Country: Its Power and Peril. By JAMES M. KING, General Secretary National League for the Protection of American Institutions. 8vo, pp. 640. New York : American Union League Society. Toronto : William Briggs.

This book is one of such importance that we give it in the present number, on page 234, a more adequate notice than we have room for here.

Priestess and Queen: a Tale of the White Race of Mexico. By EMILY E. READER. Illustrated. London and New York : Longmans, Green & Co. Toronto : The Copp, Clark Co.

Not many lives but only one have we,
One, only one.
How sacred should that one life ever be,
That narrow span !
Day after day filled up with blessed toil,
Hour after hour still bringing in new spoil.

—Horatius Bonar.