

passed off quietly, if the people in the places he visited had kept their heads, and not given away to heated partisanship.

At the public meeting held to reprobate his coming, several speakers indeed claimed for Mr. O'Brien the right of free speech, but the claim was in every instance met with a thundering negative.

Freedom of opinion and its free expression in the pulpit, on the platform and in the press, is a recognized right in all constitutionally governed countries, and its infringement is justly resented as an outrage. The popularity or unpopularity of a cause affords no reason for its suppression. What has to be decided in the forum of discussion is, Is the cause just or unjust, true or false? The great cause which Canon Wilberforce's grandfather so successfully championed in the British Parliament was very unpopular for long years, but it triumphed. No doubt, respectable British slaveholders would have had no objection at one time to have seen William Wilberforce forcibly suppressed. It is not so long ago since Abolitionists in the United States were roughly handled, and denied freedom of speech. It was the same slave-holding fanaticism that effectively suppressed John Brown, at Harper's Ferry. After all, in every civilized land, slavery is dead and buried, and no regretful mourners plant flowers on its grave. So with many a good movement. Every just cause has a march through obloquy and persecution to its predestined triumph. If a cause is bad, all it requires to discredit it is to bring it out into the clear light of day, and nothing serves this purpose better than free, unfettered discussion. Forcible repression of a wrong theory only prolongs its galvanized existence, which would speedily cease were it left severely alone.

The most regrettable thing connected with the O'Brien visit is the threats and suggestions of personal violence, that several public journals, in some places, thought fit to publish. Threats are not argument, and should have no place in free and open discussion. The hints were only too well understood, and even in Toronto the good, a sufficient force was effectively organized to prevent Mr. O'Brien from being heard at a public meeting. To all fair minded people, of whatever race or creed, this is deeply to be regretted. Such methods are sadly out of keeping with the spirit of the time. Still, a deeper depth of humiliation for a freedom-loving, orderly and tolerant community was reached, when a frantic mob, under cover of darkness, made a murderous assault on the Irish agitator and those who were with him. It will take years of good behaviour and a wise exercise of toleration to wipe out the reproach that these miserable doings have inflicted on the good name of Toronto.

We have demanded free speech and adequate protection for Father Chiniquy when he visited the Province of Quebec, and fair treatment for the Salvation Army, in the east and in the west. The friends of free speech in this Province, when similar demands require to be made, will now be courteously reminded to take the beam out of their own eye, before they remonstrate with their fellow citizens in other parts of the Dominion. It cannot be helped. At all hazards, we must stand by the inalienable right of a free people—freedom of speech.

CANADIAN HISTORY.*

IN his brief survey of what has been accomplished in the field of Canadian literature, the author of this work has permitted himself to speak in a tone of some severity of those who have in their own sphere been engaged in literary work. Some are of opinion that while there is truth in what he says, it might at least have been a little more generously expressed. Without doing violence to a due proportion, the section devoted to the consideration of literature, science and art might have been a little more extended. The bread-and-butter era of literary productiveness may be very prosaic and unpicturesque; it is nevertheless a necessary stage of a national literary development, just as chopping and logging, with the hardships the process entailed, was an indispensable part of the earlier settlers' efforts to make Canadian agriculture the success it is to day. This, however, is not a very serious accusation against an author who has

himself made valuable and permanent additions to the expanding literature of his native country.

Professor Bryce has a proper conception of what a reliable popular history should be. The dry-as-dust methods that found their culmination in Alison's "History of Europe" have almost become obsolete. Macaulay, Green, Motley, and Parkman have shown by splendid examples how well-written history can give the reader something like an adequate idea of the form and pressure of former times, what were the underlying forces shaping the current events, thus verifying the saying that "history is philosophy teaching by example."

This goodly volume, recently issued from the press, indicates that for the successful accomplishment of his task Professor Bryce had expended intelligent labour and patient research in the preparation of his material. He has been at pains to collate and classify a vast mass of authentic and original sources for the vivid presentation of the facts on which his reading of Canadian history is based. It does not profess to be an elaborate and exhaustive treatment of the history of Canada. For that several volumes would be requisite. The plan originally mapped out by the author has been most successfully accomplished, and for a Short History it is remarkably full and satisfactory. To a large number of Canadian readers it will afford a complete view of all that is essential to a general and accurate knowledge of the country; while in Britain and the United States it will be eminently serviceable in dissipating the ignorance and prejudices with which in so many instances Canadian affairs have been regarded.

The author's devotion to historical, antiquarian and scientific research has enabled him to write most interestingly on the early history of the Dominion. The volume opens with a description of the extent and boundaries of Canada and a general sketch of the Provinces. Then follows a description of the geological formation of the country, a reference to the myths and floating traditions that precede authentic history, together with a brief account of notable voyages and discoveries. The next chapter is devoted to an account of the ancient inhabitants of Canada, wherein is related what has been ascertained concerning the mound builders, the present Indian tribes, the domestic life, language, manners and customs, the social, political and religious organizations of the Indians. Then comes a description of the first efforts at colonization on the Atlantic coast. The following chapter relates to the French regime in Canada. The American revolution in its relation to Canada is then considered, which prepares the way for the narrative of the settlement of the United Empire Loyalists. The development of the country inaugurated by Lord Simcoe is then detailed. This is followed by a chapter descriptive of the remote kingdom of the fur traders. The troublous times that followed the rule of the Family Compact afford an opportunity for giving a fair, succinct and interesting account of the struggles that culminated in the achievement of constitutional and responsible government. The succeeding chapter details the development of the resources, the commercial, educational and social progress accomplished in provincial life. The concluding chapter deals with the condition of the people under Confederation, the acquisition of the great North-West, the national highway, the growth of a military sentiment, the literature, science and art, the religion and morals and the destiny of Canada.

It remains only to add that the style of the book is clear and flowing, without complication and without redundancy. However readers may differ in opinion regarding the facts recorded in this history, few will be found unwilling to concede that Dr. Bryce possesses one of the distinctive merits of the genuine historian—impartiality. Its tone throughout is eminently fair. There is no effort to expand obvious inferences and draw wearisome morals. He allows the facts to speak for themselves, and make their due impression on the mind of the reader. The usefulness of the work is greatly enhanced by a beautifully engraved map of the Dominion, and the addition of appendices containing the North America Act; a comparative table of the Governors of Canada, chronological annals and a carefully prepared index render easy reference possible. It is to be hoped that this "Short History of the Canadian People" will have a large measure of success. This its merits certainly warrant. It will be ranked as a worthy addition to Canadian literature.

THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

LETTER FROM TAMSUI, FORMOSA.

The following letter, dated February 18, 1887, by Rev. John Jamieson to the Rev. Dr. Wardrope, Convener of the Foreign Mission Committee, has been forwarded for publication:

MY DEAR SIR,—Dr. Mackay has likely already told you of the three new chapels he built in the end of last year. Like those of the previous year, these last are also very substantial and tasteful. At Toa-tian, the lot of ground is large and all enclosed by a strong stone wall. The chapel is commodious, and within is neatly furnished. The seats, of light and dark wood, are particularly handsome; they, and also two bronze chandeliers, were provided by the native church. The platform is surrounded by panel work tastefully painted. All the colouring on the stonework is of red, white or blue. This colouring is exceedingly cheap, and greatly improves the appearance of the buildings. The preacher's house and other apartments are in keeping with the chapel. As it is near the river, this chapel attracts the attention of passengers going up or down in the steamboat. The white spire can be seen from a long distance, rising above the dead level of the surrounding houses, with the British flag conspicuous on the front of it. On the east side of the spire is a map of the eastern hemisphere, and on the west side the western, drawn and coloured on the stone and marked in Chinese characters, all which A-Hoâ told us was done by Dr. Mackay himself. In building these chapels a great deal of heavy work had to be done in filling up hollows in the grounds and raising them to a proper level, laying deep foundations, etc. At one town was this particularly the case on account of the frequent flooding of the country. Going among the people we hear them saying: "Now he has built better chapels than ever, what was the use of tearing down the old ones?"

About the beginning of this year, Dr. Mackay returned to Tamsui, bringing with him some new students and others whom he had been teaching for several months. These have since been daily taught. I found I could not help any by trying to teach the students. My knowledge of the Chinese characters is not sufficient to enable me to explain the meaning of them, and the students in Oxford College are already too far advanced to be benefited by anything I could teach. When boys, most of them attended school supported by the mission, afterwards were drilled and taught by the preachers at the chapels, so that the work they now do in the college is, as it were, a third stage of their course, to complete their education and fit them for preachers.

About ten of the preachers, who are at stations not far from Tamsui, sent a request to Dr. Mackay to be allowed for some time to come every week to study, returning to their stations for Sabbath services. These have been coming now for two weeks past, and have been busily engaged. Yours faithfully,

JOHN JAMIESON.

THE WORK IN JAPAN.

Converts are being reported at the rate of nearly one hundred per week, and everywhere there is a demand for missionary preaching and Christian instruction and lecturing, far beyond the ability of the missionary bodies and the native ministry to supply.

Most of the schools, where English is at all taught, are now eagerly seeking to obtain Christian teachers, and in their contracts readily grant every facility for preaching and teaching the Gospel.

The Tract Societies also report very large sales; these will mount up into the hundreds of thousands of copies in each year, as the aggregate sales of all the missions and societies.

In all branches of mission work there has been a very marked and unusual progress during the closing months of 1886, and the beginning of 1887.

The demand for preachers and Christian teachers still continues to be greater than the supply.

Schools for the study of English are being opened in almost every town in the empire, where any one can be found who can make even a pretence of teaching it.

Many of the better class of these schools have applied to the various missionary bodies for foreign teachers, and though they offer but very small remuneration, some of the missionaries have taken up this kind of work for the sake of the facilities it offers for residence in the interior, and the propagation of the faith among the scholars and their friends.

*A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CANADIAN PEOPLE. By George Bryce, M.A. LL.D., Professor in Manitoba College, Winnipeg. London: Sampson Low, Marston, Searle & Rivington; Toronto: W. J. Gage & Co.