

ment has wrought a surprising change for the better, and no money economically expended for that purpose can be regarded as spent fruitlessly. The story of the Lake St. John Railway, which covers a number of years, has made the public aware of some of the difficulties with which the pioneers to whom it is so welcome had so long to struggle. We have already placed before our readers, both in illustration and letterpress, some of the features of the fertile territory around that fine body of water, the advantages of which a thriving population has for years been engaged in developing. The Commissioner points out that on the eastern side of the lake there is a considerable quantity of level land of excellent quality, and recommends further efforts for its occupation by settlers of the right stamp. So far those who migrated northwards have been the very pick of our farming population, and their success bears evidence to the moral characteristics which they brought to their chosen task. The Lake St. John country is the special reserve of the city of Quebec—which deserves credit for having contributed to the railway—as the St. Maurice Valley pertains to Three Rivers. The Three Rivers railway will give a needed impetus to colonization in this back country, the colonists of which will one day be in communication with the settlements on the Rouge and Temiscamingue.

Whoever would know what are the extent and character of this our great provincial reserve should study it on a good map, such as that of the Crown Lands Department, issued some years ago. We are glad to learn that the Government has in hand the preparation of another and still larger one, which will have the benefit of the additional information of the last ten years. Those who have not either personally visited it or read or heard the accounts of persons who have had such experience hardly realize the importance of this region, which, though almost at our doors, has, till lately, been virtually a *terra incognita* to the bulk of our people. A glance at the map will, however, show what proportion it bears to the inhabited part of the Province. To the northeast of it, again, lies that portion of Labrador which is under Quebec's jurisdiction and to which reference was made in a recent number of this journal. The Temiscamingue colony has been the theme of some valuable monographs, such as "Le Nord," by Mr. Recorder De Montigny, and it has also attracted the attention of strangers like Mr. Rameau and others, deeply interested in our progress. It is said that from forty to fifty parishes can be established within its limits, in a tract of wondrous fertility, and easily made accessible by rail or steamer. The Ottawa country includes the valleys of the Ottawa proper, the Rouge, the Lievre and the Gatineau, and is a vast field for colonization for the Montreal and Ottawa districts. Mr. B. Sulte has written some pleasant and instructive essays on the course of early settlement along the great river, and Mr. Arthur Buies has just embodied the results of a special tour made last summer in a volume which will take rank with his previous work, "Le Saguenay."

Besides these three, or rather four, immense tracts north of the St. Lawrence, the Report directs attention to the Gaspé peninsula—the resources of which were illustrated a couple of years ago by Mr. Langelier,—the valley of the Metapedia, the valley of the Chaudière, and, last not least, the Eastern Townships. It will be seen by the mere mention of these several regions that the Province

of Quebec has still abundance of good land for all its sons. While it is of importance that all our great Northwest should be peopled with as little delay as possible, it is also well to know that for those who prefer to remain in the older portion of Canada, there is enough and to spare of land well fitted for colonization.

A HINT FROM OVER-SEA.

In the last number of *Night and Day*, Dr. Barnardo's periodical, we have an interesting sketch of a certain Horace, who, having been taken off the streets of the metropolis and placed under civilizing influences, was finally entered on the "Canada list," at his own request. He was accepted, and in due time formed one of the summer party of youthful adventurers that came to Canada in 1886. He found a good situation with a farmer, with whom he ingratiated himself, and, being steady and industrious, made his way to a position. His conduct was so good as to merit the bronze medal the doctor gives to deserving boys. His letters to his old benefactor show his gratitude, his eagerness to succeed, his satisfaction at the change in his destiny due to his timely rescue. We have a picture of him, first as he appeared on the streets, ragged and forlorn; then another picture of him holding a horse on the Manitoba farm where he is employed. "Thus," writes the narrator, "to Horace, as to hundreds more, have our Homes been enabled, under God, to hold open the door to a golden future of respectability and usefulness."

Now, while rejoicing that such good work is being accomplished with these waifs and strays of the old country, and without the least desire to see the number of such triumphs decrease, it seems to us that Canadian philanthropists, who have for years been reading these glowing accounts of the prosperity of English boys, saved from poverty and, perhaps, crime, by timely help, might profitably take the hint and apply it to the advantage of our own waifs and strays. There is room in our vast domain for thousands of boys. Why should not the deserted offspring of ne'er-do-weel fathers and mothers, or poor orphans, who have been left homeless on our streets, be taken up and provided for just in the way that Dr. Barnardo has found so fruitful in the case of English boys?

Our Government has established experimental farms, and we are happy to learn that they are admirably fulfilling the purpose for which they were founded. But why not set apart farms in some of our spare areas in the great Northwest where Canadian boys might learn agriculture and be taught the art of honest self-support? Is it too much to expect that our own neglected children should be allowed such chances of becoming reputable and useful members of society as Dr. Barnardo describes and commends in *Night and Day*? Every year adds to the number of the boys and girls that wander homeless and aimless through the streets of our cities, serving an apprenticeship in crime and destined, many of them, to find their way to our prisons and penitentiaries. Would it not be cheaper, in the end, to organize some system of effective rescue and industrial training, which would transform the hapless victims of parental or social misdoing into respectable and law-abiding citizens? If Canada is so well adapted to the discharge of that service for the waifs and strays of England, it is certainly the duty of our authorities to dispense some of its advantages in that respect to the sons and daughters of the soil.

THOMAS CHANDLER HALIBURTON.

During the last few years there has been a remarkable display of literary activity in our Maritime Provinces. In proportion to the number of the population, more good writing has been published from there recently than in Ontario. Of the Canadian work that appears in the great American magazines, much the greater part is written by our eastern friends, Charles G. D. Roberts, Elizabeth Gostwycke Roberts, Bliss Carman and W. W. Campbell. Professor Alexander's recent book on Browning is meeting with general praise, and now Mr. F. Blake Crofton comes before the public with a thoughtful and comprehensive essay on "Haliburton; the Man and the Writer."

This book is the initial number of a series on Canadian writers about to be published by the Haliburton Club of King's College, Windsor, N.S., of which Professor Roberts is the president. It is fitting that the first book published by the club should treat of Haliburton, who was not only the most distinguished son of King's College, but was, in his time, by far the most important figure in Canadian letters.

Mr. Crofton has done his work well. It was no slight task to draw a just picture of a man of such original and versatile character without praising mere trivialities on the one hand, or condemning harmless personal peculiarities on the other. Our critic has fully recognized the individuality of his author, and with an equal hand has pointed out his excellencies and his weaknesses.

If this book turns the attention of Canadians to Haliburton's writings, it will serve a commendable purpose. But few of our people know of Haliburton at all, and of these the greater number think of him in no higher sense than as a rather rough humorist of the Orpheus C. Kerr order. Careful readers, know him to be a practical philosopher, a far-sighted patriot, and a keen observer and critic of human nature and action. He had the courage to oppose many of the popular opinions of his day and the ability to maintain his position by convincing arguments.

Mr. Crofton describes Haliburton as "an epicurean philosopher, modified a little, for the better by Christianity, and for the worse by practical politics." The author speaks of himself as being "in religion a churchman and in politics a Conservative, as is almost every gentleman in these colonies." This statement and his declarations against responsible government in the colonies show the limitations of the man. But the broadness of his view in another direction, and the strong bearing of his opinions on present politics are shown in his forcible pleas for Imperial federation. The following passages from "The Attaché" and "Wise Saws" are worthy of remark:

"The very word dependencies shows the state of the colonies. If they are retained they should be incorporated with Great Britain. Now that steam has united the two continents of Europe and America in such a manner that you can travel from Nova Scotia to England in as short a time as it once required to go from Dublin to London, I should hope for a united legislature. Recollect that the distance from New Orleans to the head of the Mississippi is greater than from Halifax to Liverpool. It shouldn't be England and her colonies, but they should be integral parts of one great whole—all counties of Great Britain. There should be no taxes on colonial produce, and the colonies should not be allowed to tax British manufactures. All should pass free, as from one town to another in England; the whole of it one vast home market, from Hong-Kong to Liverpool."

Though frequently indifferent and even positively careless as to literary form and style, Haliburton showed himself capable of the best work. In the high realms of literature may be ranked many descriptive and narrative passages from his books. It is sufficient to mention the description of the Duke of Kent's ruined lodge and "The Day on the Lake."

Though so little known here, the extent of Haliburton's reputation abroad may be judged from the fact that three of his works have been recently republished by one London house (Routledge & Son) and six by another (Hurst & Blackett). Some new editions have also been issued in the United States. This is one kind of evidence that these books are worthy of wider reading among Canadians.

A. STEVENSON.