

detailed examination of any one of these marvellous little essays. We should like to extract the whole of the tenth chapter 'On Debasing the Moral Currency,' but as that is impossible we trust our readers will lose no time in getting the book and reading it for themselves.

*The Dominion Annual Register and Review for 1878, or the Twelfth Year of the Canadian Union.* Edited by HENRY J. MORGAN. Montreal: Dawson Bros.

The indisputable worth and great success of the British *Annual Register*, no doubt, inspired Mr. Morgan to the production of a work modelled upon similar lines for Canada. It is but commonplace to say that his book supplies an undoubted want. This fact is the more evident to any one who finds himself under the necessity of looking up the circumstances of any particular event in any particular year. Say it is a political event; he will probably refer, in the first place, to the files of the leading newspapers; but newspapers are not infallible guides in political matters, and, to make sure of his ground he must industriously search the pages of the *Journals of Parliament* and rummage blue books without number. The *Annual Register* will save this labour in the vast majority of cases. But it will not be alone valuable in matters political. It is a compact *repertoire* of all the events of the year—political, social, financial, scientific, and literary. Alison, the historian, has testified to the value of the British *Register* in terms of the highest praise, and should Mr. Morgan's book have a long existence—as we hope it will have, for it deserves it—the future historian of Canada will find in it much work ready to his hand. It is not to the historian alone, however, that it will be valuable. It will be extremely welcome in every journalist's room; to the public man, of whatever kind, it will be invaluable; while every one who takes interest in the character of the stock upon his book-shelves will feel that no more valuable work than this could find a place upon them. In preparing his first volume, Mr. Morgan had to consider whether to pass over unnoticed the eleven years of Confederation which have gone by, or to summarize the leading events of each year. He

wisely, as we think, chose the latter course. There is no marked event which has happened since the 1st July, 1867, which is not noted. Such a task required a good deal of labour and research, but they have been expended to a good purpose. Following this retrospect, we have the political history of Canada for the year 1878. This is the principal feature of the book, occupying fully one-half its entire number of pages. The value of such a history is that it is impartial. A careful perusal of Mr. Morgan's review enables us to say, without any reserve whatever, that it leaves nothing to be desired on the score of impartiality. Governments come and go—the 'ins' of to-day are the 'outs' of to-morrow. To show any bias would be a fatal blot; but there is no bias in the political history for 1878. This part of the book is fittingly closed with a list of the candidates in the general election of last year, with the number of votes polled by each. Some space is then devoted to each Province apart from Dominion politics. Following this is a journal of remarkable occurrences, which is as full as could be desired. There is, then, an account of the reception in Canada, from the time of their arrival in Halifax to their taking possession of Rideau Hall, of His Excellency the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise. It might be objected that there is a little too much space given to this particular feature, but it must be borne in mind that we are not in the habit of changing our Governors-General every year, and that, in all probability, five or six years will have elapsed before the pages of the *Register* will make note of another such ceremony. Science is dealt with by a scientific hand. The business retrospect is ample. There are some pages devoted to remarkable trials. A list of public appointments for the Dominion and each Province is given. There is a very full obituary. And the whole winds up with an appendix containing the names of members returned to serve in the House of Commons during the first, second, and third Parliaments. Altogether, the book is exceedingly creditable to the editor. It shows great research and industry, and is written in good, strong English. Mr. Morgan has given abundant proof that those who regarded him as peculiarly fitted for the preparation of a work of this kind were not mistaken in their opinion.