

best told by the contrast of the want of both. We all know what our father is to us, and what we are to him. The relation is one of love, support, protection, on the one hand, and on the other, one of trust, respect, and obedience. The relation is so tender and yet so strong, so free and yet so binding, so full of what is human and yet so full of what is higher than human, that the term father has come to be applied to many things where love, support, and protection are given. A king is the father of his people. Abraham was the father of the faithful. God, Himself, is "Our Father Who art in Heaven."

When Christ had planted His Young Church on earth, and was compelled to return to God from whom He came, His followers needed love to cheer them in His absence, support to strengthen them to persevere in the good path, and protection from the evil men by whom they were surrounded. And when, from time to time, we hear of the *fathers of that early Church*, we must think of men who loved the words that Christ had spoken, and the life that He taught; who, although they had not heard His loving voice, or seen His gentle face, were so devoted to the spirit which He had breathed on earth, that they set themselves zealously to support and protect the young church where support and protection were required, and stood in such a relation of trust, respect, and obedience to all who loved the teachings of Jesus, that they came to be known by the name which Kings and Princes are proud to bear—FATHERS.

One of these great and good men was called Irenæus. He was Bishop of a small part of the young church in Gaul, the ancient name of France. At Lyons, the same town which gives its name to a kind of silk we use at the present day, Irenæus wrote a book to explain how certain things were wrong which the people believed were right. The word which we use for these things is *heresy*. When Irenæus wanted to prove that one thing was right and that another thing was wrong, he went for his material to the Gospels. He did not go to the Gospels very seldom, as if nobody knew much about them. He went as often as four hundred times; and of these four hundred quotations, as many as eighty are from the Gospel of Saint John. This Father of the Church wrote his book at the end of the 2nd century; that is, about 150 years after Christ was crucified.

In other books than that of Irenæus there are hundreds of pages taken from the Gospels; and a very curious and ancient catalogue of books, such as our booksellers and libraries require, has been discovered, in which the New Testament is quoted as among the Sacred Books. The first part of this catalogue was torn off when it was found, but it gives the Gospel of Luke as *third*, and that of John as *fourth*, leaving us to infer that there were a *first* and a *second* as well. From this interesting document we gather that even so long ago the very *order* or succession of the Books was the same as it is now.

You will easily see from this that the name of *doubtters* or *waverers* is a good name for men who, in spite of these facts, persist in saying that the Gospels could not have been written at that time. They are, indeed, like a feather on "a wave of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed."

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

SEA-SIDE AND WAY-SIDE. Illustrated. By JULIA McNAIR WRIGHT. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.

Another number of this charming series of Messrs

Heath & Co. has been received. No. 2 takes us over ant-hills, and down among the worms; tells us about flies, and introduces us to beetles; gives us a glimpse of the bottom of the sea, and a flight with the dragon-flies. The style is most charming, and ought to form the key-note to the solution of the inattentive-child-question. Nature and her works should be to all young people the subject most naturally attractive, and not one to be taken up as a task. Our children would simply revel among animals and their ways, but for the want of tact in presenting them to the subject.

ILLUSTRATED TORONTO, THE QUEEN CITY OF CANADA. Toronto: The Acme Publishing and Engraving Co.

This is a handsomely executed book of 194 pages, richly embellished with cuts, and a coloured Title Page. It is intended as a history of our fair Queen City of the West, as a record of its manufacturing progress, and as an indication of the expectations of the future.

The data has been procured from authentic sources, gathered by the editors from men of indisputable reliability. The illustrations are varied, artistic, and intermingled with valuable portraits. The whole work is one of which Toronto may be proud, and as an indication of an awakening desire to record our history, and to take pleasure in the record, the book should not only find its way all over the Dominion, but suggest an example that cannot, at least for a long time, be too frequently followed.

CANADA'S NATIONAL SONG, "MY OWN CANADIAN HOME," written by E. G. Nelson, composed by Morley McLaughlin, and published by the Maritime Steam Litho. Co., St. John,

Is an outburst of patriotism from a promising Young Canadian. The music is *tempo di marcia*, and its dedication to the Bisley Rifle competitors ought to ensure its introduction as a military song-march. The song was sung in the Mechanics' Institute, St. John, on November 15th. In times of peace our soldiers may be satisfied with brass and drum. In time of war they must take to singing.

RAISE THE FLAG, AND OTHER PATRIOTIC CANADIAN SONGS AND POEMS, is the Title of a very neat collection, published by the Rose Publishing Co., Toronto.

A deputation of influential men last year waited upon the Hon. the Minister of Education for Ontario, requesting that our flag should be hoisted over our school-houses on national anniversaries. The idea, once started, gained ground as it went along. On October 13th, the anniversary of the Battle of the Queenston Heights, a commemoration was held, and the scholars sent in large numbers of essays on the battle. A Toronto newspaper has offered a large flag to the school which shall write the best essay on the subject "Raising the Flag."

A few gentlemen have got up this nice collection of patriotic songs for the children who wrote the best essays, as a souvenir of the day and the occasion. The songs themselves are well-selected. They are all from our best authors. They all breathe a strong attachment to Canadian history, and to Canada as our native land. Many of them touch on periods in our history that tell of the endurance and loyalty of our ancestors, those who fought that we may have peace, who braved peril and suffering that we might live under our own dear flag.