

Mr. McCarthy has been so long justifying agrarian outrage in Ireland, that his moral sense has become impaired in cases that suggest even the most remote semblance to the political situation of his native land. Even Nana Sahib is more than half covered by Mr. McCarthy's shield, because he is conceived to represent the nemesis of an invaded soil. Most of us can recall only too well the story of that awful summer evening at Cawnpore when Nana Sahib's butchers outraged and hewed to pieces a large houseful of defenceless and tenderly-reared English gentlewomen. Even after this writer's unwarranted deductions from the atrocities, his story should make any well-constituted mind recoil with horror. So far as he dare presume on the patience of English readers, Mr. McCarthy apologizes for the conduct of the vile miscreant who directed this massacre, and he conjectures it "to have occurred to the Nana, or to have been suggested to him, that it would be inconvenient to have his English captives recaptured by the enemy, their countrymen."

Some of our Indian heroes fare but ill at this historian's tribunal. For the summary execution of the Princes of Delhi he casts unworthy aspersions on the memory of Hodson, the gallant cavalry officer who did so much to recover India. At the same time Mr. McCarthy takes under his especial patronage Lord Canning, the Governor-General. He contrasts his forbearance, and takes frequent refreshment from a foolish nickname "Clemency Canning." Now all this is grossly inaccurate and most flagrantly unjust. Lord Canning did generally exercise admirable self-control and forbearance; but in the particular case of Delhi he telegraphed to his Commander-in-Chief these exact words: "No amount of severity can be too great; I will support you in any degree of it." Hodson was acting under these instructions, and his superior officer, General Wilson, modified them by the single reservation that the life of the aged King of Delhi be spared. Hodson by an audacious *coup* captured the whole royal litter, and he carried out his official instructions in their obvious significance.

Though in places, our author makes an unsafe pilot, he always makes a delightful companion. His style is limpid, and carries the narrative pleasantly along. As we float in the sunshine, we often catch from afar the delightful breath of the early English literature, which has given so many writers their charm and strength. Mr. McCarthy finds time for a brief notice of our intellectual growth in Canada, and draws upon the papers contributed to the *Canadian Monthly*, referring by name to those of Mr. Bourinot.

J. H. H.

THE ORTHOEPIST: A Pronouncing Manual containing about 3,500 words, including a considerable number of the names of foreign authors, artists, etc. that are often mispronounced, by Alfred Ayers. New York: D. Appleton & Co.; Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson, 1881.

NOTWITHSTANDING the service rendered by dictionaries of the language, there is ample room for just such a work as this, bringing into prominence classes of words which are more or less in use by educated people and that are to be met with in all departments of the literature of the day, but which in current speech are more often mispronounced than pronounced aright. The excellent article on "Our Own Blunders," which appears in the present issue, attests the necessity of resorting, and resorting frequently, to competent authorities, for guidance in this matter of orthoepy. Mr. Boyle's plea for increased attention on the part of teachers to their "manner of speech," and to the interchange of kindly criticism on each other's orthoepic attainments is worthy of the serious consideration of the profession. When the printers of this magazine furnish themselves with type, as they intend presently to do, with the requisite diacritical marks, we purpose to open a department in which the generally-received authorities on the pronunciation of a word will be given, in the case of disputes referred to us, as well as with the object of occasionally citing words which in colloquial speech are popularly mispronounced. This work of Mr. Ayers will be found a useful one to the profession.