

1851. *Matilda Montgomerie, or The Prophecy Fulfilled.* New York.

This is simply a new edition of the *Canadian Brothers*, with slight verbal alterations. Whether it appeared with Major Richardson's sanction or not is not known.

1852. *Wauvagee, or The Massacre of Chicago.* A romance. New York.
Hardscrabble, or The Fall of Chicago, which is sometimes given as one of Major Richardson's works, is probably the same.

1854. *The Monk Knight of St. John.* New York.

This is given by Morgan, and if correct would be a posthumous work. Morgan also gives another work—*Westbrook, or The Outlaw*. New York. I have not been able to find any trace of this, but my discovery that *The Canadian Brothers* and *Matilda Montgomerie* are one, leads me to suspect that this *Westbrook* is only *Wacousta* with another name.

Very interesting from a Canadian standpoint are *Wacousta, The Canadian Brothers* and *Tecumseh*, and it is with these that I propose to deal at greater length.

First of all *Wacousta*. Two reviews are quoted by Morgan. They are:

"The merit of this novel consists in the spirit of its historical pictures, which possess at least the consistency of truth. The writer displays no ordinary share of graphic power and he has the rare talent of rendering a fearful battle in music. His descriptions of scenery are well executed but unfortunately they are rare." *Athen.* (Lond.)

"The perusal of this novel has afforded us more satisfaction than anything of the kind which has fallen within the range of our reading for many a long day. Perhaps we have met with volumes containing a deeper seated interest, but rarely any that have united so much simplicity with eloquence of style." *Satirist.* (Lond.)

To these I would add what is said by the author of the article on James Fenimore Cooper found in Vol. 74 of the *North American Review*. Speaking of *The Last of the Mohicans* he says that the work can be compared only with *Wacousta*, implying the superiority of *Wacousta*.

A fourth opinion is by Dr. J. G. Bourinot. "Wacousta, or the Prophecy, a Tale of the Canadas," was written sixty years ago by Major John Richardson, a native Canadian, but it was at the best a spirited imitation of Cooper."

"His historical narrative is not generally trustworthy."

These are conflicting opinions, and therefore I purpose giving a short resume of *Wacousta* and a brief comparison with *The Last of the Mohicans* which Richardson himself admits exerted a great fascination upon him.

Wacousta opens with the description of the consternation caused at Detroit Sept., 1763, when the Governor, Col. de Haldimar, announced having seen a stranger in his room. No one else had seen him, and yet evidences were found proving that all was not in order. Soon Capt. Fred. de Haldimar and his servant were found absent. This caused the arrest, court-martialing and condemnation to death of the sentry, Reginald Halloway (really Morton) for neglect of duty. This sentence was carried out despite the entreaties of his wife, Ellen Halloway, and in spite of the efforts of the officers, so that the reader gets the impression that the bitterness of Col. de Haldimar

is caused by something else than mere military duty. This is strengthened when it is told that this Reginald Halloway was very brave and had saved Capt. de Haldimar from death at the hands of a giant Indian warrior (who really was Wacousta). As the unfortunate sentry was shot to death his wife sprang wildly through the crowd and looking like a spectre, uttered the imprecation or "prophecy" as the subtitle of the book runs:

"Inhuman murderer," she exclaimed, in tones that almost paralyzed the ear on which it fell, "if there be a God of justice and of truth He will avenge this devilish deed. Yes, Col. de Haldimar, a prophetic voice whispers to my soul, that even as I have seen perish before my eyes all that I have loved on earth, without mercy and without hope, so even shall you witness the destruction of your accursed race."

Poor Halloway might have proved his innocence had the execution been delayed five minutes, for down the opposite hill and making for the bridge Capt. de Haldimar was seen running at top speed pursued by a gigantic warrior.

Capt. de Haldimar had persuaded Halloway to let him leave Detroit, and led by a faithful Indian woman Oucanasta, who was in love with him, he had reached the encampment of the hostile Indians and overheard the council's talk and plans against the town. He had, however, been discovered and made prisoner, but was lucky enough to escape, owing to the assistance of Uncas, brother of Oucanasta, and at heart an enemy of Wacousta.

The situation at Detroit was now desperate, but not more so than at Michillimackinac, where Madelaine de Haldimar, the betrothed and cousin of Capt. de Haldimar, was with her father. Clara, the daughter of Col. de Haldimar, was visiting her, and it was to rescue the two from the dangers about them that Capt. de Haldimar and Sir Edward Valletort set out secretly from Detroit. Unfortunately Fort Michillimackinac had fallen, though the two ladies had been rescued by the efforts of Oucanasta. The homeward journey was begun, but an ambush by Wacousta, who seems ubiquitous, led to their capture. Then follows in detail an account of Wacousta's former life. He was also a Morton and uncle of the unfortunate Reginald Morton, alias Halloway. He had passionately loved in his youth Clara Beverly, who had been dishonorably won from him by de Haldimar. One thing led to another, and at last Morton was outlawed. He came to Canada, took up with the French and Indians and became all powerful in their councils. His burning desire was to avenge himself on de Haldimar and he had only been prevented from slaying the eldest son, Capt. de Haldimar, by the bravery and self-sacrifice of Halloway. After the execution of Halloway he had taken the demented widow under his protection and by her had a son. Now he informs Clara de Haldimar of his intention to marry her. In the meantime the course of events had so preyed upon the strength of the younger son, Charles de Haldimar that he went into decline and died. The prisoners of Wacousta were fortunate in escaping from their captors and enemies as they were investing Detroit, but amid the bustle the ubiquitous Wacousta had managed to get hold of Clara de Haldimar and, unable to buy safety from the inexorable Colonel, he had murdered her while trying to escape. The closing scenes of this rapidly moving tragedy show us Col. de Haldimar

on his death-bed, his survivors being Capt. Fred. de Haldimar and his wife Madelaine. The fate of them and their posterity is unfolded in *The Canadian Brothers*.

If we contrast the plot of this story with that of the *Last of the Mohicans*, the most superficial examination will show that there is nothing so highly improbable in Richardson's plot. The ground work is on a large scale, whilst Cooper's is cramped. Another feature in which Richardson stands out in good relief when compared with Cooper, is that his Indians are not any more improbable than Parkman's, whereas Cooper's are impossible. Wacousta might well be compared with Hawkeye, for both are resourceful in the extreme and wise beyond measure. In other respects, however, Wacousta shows resemblances to Magua, the bitter foe of Col. Monro, and if the comparison is pushed to the extreme, then Cora and Alice Monro, daughters of the Colonel, are the prototypes of Clara and Madelaine de Haldimar. The characters have very little in common, however, except that there are two heroines in each story.

Perhaps Major Heyward served as a model for Sir Edward Valletort. Further, the name Uncas seems to have become a favorite with Richardson, for it recurs in *Tecumseh* as well.

Not only is the plot in *Wacousta* constructed on a larger basis than that of *The Last of the Mohicans*, but there are also many more characters. This in itself demands greater skill in construction. As far as character sketching is concerned, the authors seem very much on a par. The characters of each are very flesh and blood. Nature is better described by Richardson. He does not overload with detail so much as Cooper, and there is more warmth and coloring.

In still one point I am inclined to award the palm to Richardson, and that is in the question of adherence to historical truth. Just how far strict loyalty to history is necessary for the novelist is perhaps not yet determined. We know how Shakespeare deals with the real facts of history and how Goethe and Schiller made use of historical narratives. I was prepared to believe the worst of our author until I compared *Wacousta* with Parkman's *Conspiracy of Pontiac*, after which it seemed clear to me that our writer had been as faithful as any critic could wish, and my appreciation of Richardson rose materially. In making such comparisons, we must remember that different versions of any one affair are modified as they pass from mouth to mouth, and that Richardson may have heard slightly different ones from those written down and to which historians have access. Wacousta himself is the only character transcending probability and in this is to be traced Cooper's strong influence. But Richardson is no more a slavish follower of Cooper than is Crockett of Stevenson.

L. E. HORNING.

(To be continued.)

Mohammedanism is to-day, as in the past, a great missionary and proselyting religion. In the last thirty years it has made numerically more proselytes than Christianity. The Moslem missionaries whom the Sultan of Turkey is said in Constantinople to be sending through Africa are probably a part of the preachers of Islam always supported by the Sultan in his capacity as Caliph and represent no new policy.—*Philadelphia Press.*