

the evolution of painting and traces the growth of Italian art with great clearness from the Madonna of Margaritone, "a grim, gaunt, forbidding-looking figure," to the rich pictures of Titian, who, in the details of his art, and especially as a colorist, surpassed even a Raphael.

The third letter is the finest. The writer is dealing with "the meridian glory of Italian art," and Leonardo da Vinci's picture, "Our Lady of the Rocks," fascinates her, and we, too, are fascinated by her description of that "wonderful conception of ideal womanhood," with its "expression of tender love, and soft, gentle beauty." The companion study in this letter is Michael Angelo. Sympathy again gives the writer an understanding mind. There is something more than a painter here—there is a man. "The very strength and dignity of Michael Angelo's work were a true expression of his sterling principles and massive character." His "full, strong drawing," his "perfect shading," are noted with a truly critical eye; and although she gives it as the opinion of the critics that "boldness, vigor, and mastery of form are combined in this great artist above all others" we feel it to be her own judgment from first-hand observation.

The closing letter deals with Raphael and his noble pictures, and with Titian and Tintoretto, and an able closing paragraph is given in the Eclectics, the Mannerists, and the Naturalists.

We cannot have too many books of this kind. Our artists have, as yet, met with but little recognition. We are merely graping in art. And the general public must be educated to some extent in what has been already done in the world of painting before great pictures can be expected from Canadians. This little book will go a long way towards giving us higher ideals of art.

No series of books is more welcome to the reader of British descent than the "English Men of Action." The publisher in choosing the writer of the life of Colin Campbell † for this series has made a wise choice. Archibald Forbes, by his experience with battles and soldiers, by his robust, nervous style, is well fitted to depict the career of the man who died "the foremost soldier of England." The writer's genius does not seem adapted for depicting the ordinary commonplaces of life, and the early part of the opening chapter is somewhat tedious. But even here we meet with such a sentence as: "Since the Peninsular days Colin Campbell had been soldiering his steadfast way round the world, taking campaigns and climates alike as they came to him in the way of duty." From this sentence we are led to expect unusual vigour when the writer has settled down to a detailed description—

"Of moving accident by flood and field
Of hair breadth 'scapes i' the imminent deadly breach."

The book is interesting not only as a picture of the life of a hero, but as a contribution to history. The life of Colin Campbell is almost synonymous with the history of England's wars from the beginning of the century. We find him a mere lad, passing through both the Peninsular campaigns, fighting bravely under Wellesley, at Vimiera, and enduring nobly in the retreat of Sir John Moore. Although he played a gallant part at Vimiera he left no record of his deeds save the brief note: "Twenty-first of August, was engaged in the battle of Vemiera." This modesty seems to have been one of his leading traits, for from the beginning of his career till the close he rarely spoke of his own deeds. He was essentially a man of action, not of words, and it has been left to others to chronicle his exploits. At Barrosa he first came prominently before the military public. At San Sebastian, where he led the forlorn hope, he signally distinguished himself. He was then in his twenty-first year, but was already a veteran in experience. His daring at this time is tersely described in the sentence: "Twice he ascended, twice he was wounded, and all around him died." This baptism of fire would have left his name permanently on our military history if he had never known another engagement. So ardently did he desire action that he left the hospital, "limped" to the front, and at the passage of the Bouquet, materially aided in the capture of the Croix des Bidassos, but was so severely wounded that he was compelled to return to England. The story of these days of active service is told

by Forbes with the graphic powers of a man accustomed to glancing an eye over battlefields.

A long period of comparative inactivity followed, and the story of this period is told with less power, as the "doing nothing, expecting nothing" time of Campbell's life seems to be as little inspiring to the writer as it was attractive to the soldier.

From 1842, when he was called to take part in the Chinese war, till 1863 his life was a fiercely active one. His constitution was of iron: crowded vessels, fevers, marches, wounds that laid others low affected him but little. On the field and in the barracks "he was a rigorous taskmaster, but if he did not spare others, he never spared himself." Although he loved fighting, the motto he selected when elevated to the peerage, "be mindful," is characteristic of the man, and the key to his success. He hated a "big butcher's bill," and was careful of his soldiers' lives. He loved his men, and they returned his affection. Only once in his career does he seem to have been accused of timidity, and that was when Lord Dalhousie reprimanded him for displaying "over-cautious reluctance;" a more unjust reprimand than which was never uttered.

The book rapidly follows the hero's brilliant career through India till his return to England in '53, and then takes us with him to the Crimea in the following year. His daring at Alma, the calm generalship at Balaclava, when he met the Russian charge with his "thin red streak, tipped with a line of steel," largely helped that war to a successful conclusion.

In 1857 England's ablest and most experienced soldier was required for the Indian mutiny, and Sir Colin Campbell was appointed to the command. This part of the book is by far the most brilliant. The description of the inspection of the troops before the march on Lucknow is a most vivid piece of word-painting—perhaps the finest paragraph in the book. The struggle at the Begum's palace and the slaughter that followed are told with graphic, thrilling power; and ever, through it all, the writer keeps prominently in the foreground the striking figure of old Sir Colin, saving his men, enduring with them, fighting night and day, for only the utmost skill and watchfulness could give success to his small army going out against the Eastern hordes. He was successful, completely successful, and at the close of the war "India had relapsed into a state of profound peace and security."

He was made a peer and a field-marshal, the highest honours in the gift of the nation, and at the age of 71 passed to his rest, and was honoured with a place in Westminster Abbey. It is hard to realize as we lay down the little book that this hero lived in our own days—that the man of many wars was a nineteenth century hero. What makes it all the harder to comprehend is the fact that he was born into the world the son of a Glasgow carpenter, and that he died the foremost soldier of his age, a peer, and a field-marshal.

T. G. MARQUIS.

* * *

Press Opinion on The Week.

THE last issue of THE WEEK is of considerable interest to Albertans. Amongst other matter, it contains a pointed contribution by the Reverend John May in reply to Principal Grant's article on the Manitoba School Question. Mr. May combats the contention that the Province of Manitoba should be given a free hand in the matter. On the principle that individual liberty ends where the liberty of the community is violated, he holds that, if pressing Provincial rights too far is likely to disturb the whole of Confederation, the Federal Government should intervene. "An Alberta Settler" writing from Calgary comments on an article by Professor Shortt in the *Queen's University Quarterly*. The "pernicious results" of the "vigorous immigration policy" are commented on. Irrigation and Free Trade are said to be what Alberta requires; and the railway monopoly and the "professional politicians" are condemned.

There are also an excellent article on literary matters by Dr. Bourinot; a thoughtful contribution on Religion in Schools, by Professor Clark; a criticism of the Ontario Educational System from a taxpayer's point of view, by Ernest Heaton; as well as several excellent minor contributions.—*Alberta Tribune*.

† "Colin Campbell." By Archibald Forbes. New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co., Ltd., Toronto.