

RETROSPECTION.

We gaze through the balmy summer night,
Far over the noisy, restless town,
Into the East, where the moon pours down
On the waters a golden path of light.

There is peace in the East, and 'tis peaceful here,
While between there is turmoil and ceaseless riot,
But the distant noises scarce pierce the quiet,
That broods o'er the warm night atmosphere.

In life's dim twilight men turn their gaze
Over long years of toil and strife,
To the peaceful waters of childhood's life,
That gleam in the brightness of happier days.

W. W. EDGAR.

THE CABOT CALENDAR.*

We have just received a copy of one of the most interesting of New Year publications. It is the Cabot Calendar, the work of Miss Fitzgerald and Miss Mickle, of this city. The Calendar is a gem of art being enriched by many drawings from the pens of Misses M. Cary McConnell and Agnes Fitzgerald. Its production marks the 400th anniversary of the discovery of Canada by John and Sebastian Cabot in 1497, and it is an historical record of all the principal occurrences in Canadian history. To each day of the month is attached some event bearing on the history of Canada, or connected with the life of its makers and it is illustrated with drawings of prominent Canadians and old Canadian implements of war and peace. There are also several beautiful lithographed full page portraits of the men who have moulded Canada's destiny and led her sons to battle. On the first or title card of the series we have a portrait of Sebastian Cabot who in 1496 was sent out with his father Giovanni under letters patent of Henry VII by the Merchant Venturers of Bristol. In 1497 they discovered the coasts of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, being the first Europeans who had ever seen the shores of Canada. Above the portrait is a fac-simile of the signature of Henry VII. Its graceful and flowing capitals, when compared with the cramped and awkward forms of the others of his time which appear in the Calendar, suggest at once that Henry was of a much more artistic and graceful turn of mind than most of his contemporaries. This is particularly noticeable when we look from his signature to that of Sebastian Cabot—painful lines and feeble attempts at embellishment. On the next page appears a portrait of Champlain, the first Governor of the Colony. The man who looks straight at us from the page with his steady eyes and strongly marked features, set off by a great head of long curly hair, is easily recognized as a man of tremendous personal force, just the man to cope with the difficulties which beset the young and struggling colony. The large, childlike, labored, signature underneath bears out and strengthens his opinion. Following this is the January Calendar. On this page appears a drawing from an old print of the Merchant Venturers Hall in Bristol. This hall remained in existence until the beginning of the 18th century when it was replaced by the present one. Judging from the wrought iron work which abounds and the gorgeous crest over the door the Venturers must have been men of some wealth and power, and they were certainly men of daring to risk money and life in an adventurous voyage into the great unknown of the Western seas. On the same page appear drawings of the ships used by these early navigators—ships in which a man to-

day would hardly trust himself on the Muskoka Lakes, but which served the adventurous predecessors of our modern sea-captains and sailors to make voyages in the course of which they did not come in sight of land for many months together.

The full-page portraits are all interesting to Canadians, that of Frontenac with its firm lips, protruding chin, deep set eyes and prominent, perfectly formed aquiline nose, presents to us exactly the type of man we should expect in the stern, unbending soldier of history. Strength and power shows itself in every line of his face, but there is wanting those qualities of forbearance and patience which would have been so useful to the opponent of Bigot. Two strong, despotic characters brought into opposition and trouble is bound to follow unless one of them at least is willing to make allowance for the mistakes in policy and action of the other. James Wolfe is another of the great makers of Canadian history, and he may perhaps be said to be the greatest. Without him Canada might, probably would, never have become a British Colony. England was not very anxious for its possession, and at the peace seriously considered whether she would not prefer Guadeloupe as a strategic point than the uncultivated waste of Canada. If Canada had never come into the possession of England the Southern English Colonies with the perpetual menace of France to their indefensible North could never have revolted and the year 1897 might have seen a North America consisting of a French dependency to the North and an English one to the South instead of an English Canada destined to be one of the earth's greatest powers and the United States of America dreaming of one day owning the earth and manufacturing easily sinkable warships to that end. Wolfe does not look like a moulder of the destinies of nations. His features are the reverse of powerful. A weak-looking, receding chin, thick lips, a nose pointing to the clouds and a slanting forehead are the principal characteristics of his face. But yet it is noble in spite of these defects. There is there an aspiring ambition, high purpose and the eye seems to bespeak firm resolve. It is not the face one would look for in the darling of an army, a man whom men would follow to glory or the grave, but such he was and such we must believe him to have been, however much our poor judgment of God's image may be against such a belief. The other full page portrait in the Calendar is that of Sir Isaac Brock. It is sufficient to say of it that his countenance bears out the opinion one has formed of the taker of Detroit and the hero of Queenston Heights.

Among the many very interesting drawings are some which are specially so. We may mention that of an old Indian pipe which was found in Toronto and is believed to be one of the most perfect specimens in existence. Its narrow bowl has around it four carved animals all apparently climbing up to get a whiff of the sweet scented smoke. The squirrel, beaver and seal are not animals one would expect to find had acquired the vice of smoking, but they are here joined to the pipe for life. Another noticeable drawing is that of Gen. Williams, of Nova Scotia, who appears carrying the sword presented to him by the Legislature of his native Province in recognition of his bravery. Beside the drawing is a fac-simile of the message sent by Gen. Williams from Kars, dated the 29th of September, 1855, with the words "This has been a glorious day for the Turkish arms. W. E. Williams." Other interesting autographs are those of the first and last Governors of Canada under the old and new régimes—Champlain, 1612; Vaudreuil, 1760; Murray, 1763; Aberdeen, 1897. A glance at these four signatures leads one to believe that there is much interesting matter to be gleaned from a close study of the science of graphology concerning not only individuals but races and generations also.

Space, however, forbids us even to enumerate all the interesting matter to be found in this beautiful Calendar.

*The Cabot Calendar, by Mary Agnes Fitzgerald and Sara Mickle, with illustrations by M. Cary McConnell and Agnes Fitzgerald. Toronto Lithographing Co., 1896. Price 50 cents.