

Gordon at his best. This life of the late Superintendent of Presbyterian Missions in the Northwest has been handled in the manner that its importance and opportunities demanded, and as a result we have a very valuable contribution to Canadian biographical literature. Not only should it be of intense interest to churchmen, but it should prove to have a broadening and sympathising effect on all readers, for the life of that stalwart man of God means the history of much of the Northwest mission work, particularly in connection with the Presbyterian Church. The keynote of Robertson's career is given near the beginning of the book, where the author describes how, when James was about sixteen, a problem that had given some trouble at the college in Edinburgh was sent down to the master at Dull, where James lived.

"If any of them can solve it," said the master, "it will be Robertson."

Robertson took it home and "fell upon it." He did not retire with the rest of the family, but when the father came in next morning James rose with the solution of the problem in his hands. In after years it required a man of that type to establish and superintend the great mission fields of the Northwest, and James Robertson was that man. But few of his stamps can be found in any calling. (Toronto: The Westminster Company).

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DR. DRUMMOND'S LAST WORK

The last literary work of the late Dr. William Henry Drummond appears in a volume of moderate size entitled "The Great Fight." Besides his last work, the volume contains a number of poems and sketches that had not been published before in book form, and what is of even more interest, there is a most intimate and delightful introduction by the author's widow, May Harvey Drummond. The introduction is partly biographical, but it is mostly a character sketch. Mrs. Drummond throws many a side-

light on one of the most lovable of men, and, having read her words, one could scarcely help having a largely increased interest in the "Poet of the Habitant." It is good enough to read about the inner side of a man's life, about his manner, his habits, his likes and dislikes, his methods of work and his love of country, but when the one who shared his lot as help-meet tells us about the courtship, a rather romantic courtship, too, we begin to feel a very human interest in the poet. Mrs. Drummond records that when, as a young woman, she and her father were guests at the Laurentian Club, they were induced to stay over Sunday. Of this visit she writes:

"In a journal which I kept during the trip, under date of 'Sunday, Sept. 18th, there is this entry: 'Introduced to our unknown friend, Dr. Drummond.' Here was another and very tangible object in the way of our departure, and it being impossible to refuse the earnest request of this man to whom we owed so much, we stayed yet another day, the afternoon of which I spent fishing under the guidance of the no longer 'unknown' friend. The far-reaching events of that day were thus tersely though all unconsciously summed up in my little diary: 'Went to Trout Lake fishing—caught my first 'big fish.'"

We are told that the poems and sketches in the volume are printed just as they were found, without the finishing touches that the author might have bestowed had he himself been sending them for publication. Some are connected with Dr. Drummond's experiences at Kerr Lake, in the Cobalt district, where he died; some are in the well-known French-Canadian dialect, while others are written to or about his own people, the Irish. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Toronto: The Musson Book Company. Cloth, \$1.25).

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IMPRESSIONS OF THE HOLY LAND

Dr. Henry Van Dyke, writing in the preface of his delightful volume,