

## BOOK NOTES.

The following books have been published by Rowsell & Hutchison, Toronto :

"Year-Book of the University of Toronto, 1886-87", by J. O. Miller and F. B. Hodgins. 75 cents.

A "Short History of the Church of England," by Rev. C. E. Whitcomb, 50 cents. A valuable little book for its members who have not the time to investigate thoroughly the doings of their old time historical Church. A reliable and carefully written book.

"Malcolm," a story of the Day Spring, by George A. Mackenzie. Ribbon book, 50 cents.

Love is the theme, unrequited love the sequel. A charming idyl of one whose honest fervour quenched, but not subdued, lives life's hard battle in grim solitude until, subdued by chastenings, he lives the better life that would perhaps have won his idol, had he in other days been what later he became.

There are but three characters delineated and these with a touch of reality that absorbs the intense interest of the reader throughout the little poem. For poem it is in the true sense of the word, rich in melody, perfect in metre, and in well chosen words pure from the well of English undefiled.

We but give the concluding words :

When Malcolm rose he saw the world dark-rimm'd  
Against still depths of blue ; the river shone  
Between its dusky banks ; and, like a soul  
Cleans'd of all stain and trembling on the verge  
Of sinless being, dawned the morning star.

The make of the book is creditable to the publishers who are also the printers.

Dawson Bros., Montreal, have issued another volume of the poems of C. G. D. Roberts, Professor of English Literature in King's College, Nova Scotia, entitled "Divers Tones." Price \$1.00.

In divers tones it certainly is, for while there is a good deal to praise, there is likewise much poor work within the covers of the book. Our main objection is the faulty metre. Were the author a novice it would not be quite so objectionable, but when we know that he has before this given to the public another volume, and it is known that he has had large experience as a critic there is no excuse for the limping rhythm of a great many of the poems. Besides there seems to be carelessness in the formation of a verse.

Take for an example of both these faults a verse quoted in the leading literary weekly of Canada as one of his best :

" And thro' the dust and din,  
Smiling, thy heart shall hear  
Quiet waters lapsing thin,  
And locusts shrilling clear."

In the third line the first word must be pronounced *quite* to be proper measure ; and what is the meaning anyway of the last two lines ?

It looks as though having got to the sixteenth verse of an otherwise pleasant poem he finished it in a slipshod fashion.

The Tantramar Revisited, after the fashion of Longfellow, with others, gives us pleasing views of the Eastern provinces where the author feels at home, and these are, perhaps, some of the best specimens of his work, for there are poems of merit, notable of

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