

each chapter, a comprehensive index, and a good chronological table. The appendices also contain a considerable amount of valuable information, social, constitutional, and statistical. The work as a whole is admirably conceived and executed. Indeed, we have so high an opinion of this history that it seems worth while to lay some stress upon the mistakes we find in it. It is written with an easy and flowing pen; but, as we have already hinted, it is slightly grandiloquent at times, and the effort to be picturesque occasionally causes trouble. For example, it is stated (p. 212) that at the attack on Fort Niagara, at the mouth of the river, "amid the boom of cannonade, the rattle of musketry," &c., "was heard the muffled roar of the mighty Falls"—which we take leave to doubt. This passage, taken in connection with another (p. 304), would seem to indicate that proximity to the cataract does not add to the roar, for we read that, even at Lundy's Lane, it was only heard "distinctly." Nothing need be said of the "fitful gleams" shed "through the rifts" by the moon on the latter occasion, because our readers will not fail to understand, from the passages given, the perils of fine writing.

The omissions in Mr. Archer's work are noteworthy. No mention is made of the heroic resistance of Daulac des Ormeaux; and although Mr. Jeffers mentions it, he does not inform the reader that the Long Sault referred to is on the Ottawa, and not the more celebrated rapid of the St. Lawrence. Mr. Archer gives an account of Beupré and the expulsion of the Acadians thence, without referring to Evangeline. He omits all mention of Col. Moodie's death, which had great weight at the subsequent trials, although he mentions the murder of Lieut. Weir, between Sorel and St. Charles, also during the time of the Rebellion. He knows nothing of the Orange Demonstrations during the Prince of Wales's visit, or the Fenian Raid at Fort Erie. These are not all the omissions, but we pass on to errors of fact, giving a few examples. There were fifty-seven rectories, not fifty-six (p. 344); the Governor is not appointed "by the King and Parliament" (p. 359); the *Caroline* did not go "in a flaming mass" over the Falls (p. 371); the League was held at Kingston, not Montreal, and although Mr. Archer does not intend to represent it as originating the idea of Confederation, since he had previously assigned that honour to Chief Justice Sewell, in 1814, yet his words convey that impression (p. 395); finally, Abraham Lincoln was not an abolitionist (p. 426). Mr. Archer gives a strange version of public matters in 1858. In the first place, the assertion is made (p. 421) that "the Reform party gained a small majority at the general election," which was not the case, and the "double shuffle" is explained in the following singular way: "Its members (*i. e.* of the Cartier-Macdonald

Administration) did not go back to the people, according to the established practice, but resumed their duties as if the few days of Brown and Dorion were not worth reckoning."

The mis-spelling of proper names is something wonderful, and nearly all the "Macs" are wrong. We have M'Donald, M'Kenzie, M'Dougall, M'Pherson instead of Macdonald, &c.; Taché, without an accent; Sliddel, Rolphe, Rideout, Bolton, Sanfield, Langeoui (Langevin) and Renny (Kenny); a comma is inserted so as to make two persons of Dominic Daly, and Louis Victor Sicotte appears as A. Sicotte. Then again we have the *Hon.* Mr. Cardwell and the *Hon.* E. Bulwer Lytton, as if they were the younger sons of peers. Most of these blunders, if not all, were doubtless caused by want of knowledge on the part of the English proof-reader.

But we must pause. There are some general defects in both these works which we should like to have noticed, such as the want of skill in fixing definite pictures of historical characters upon the mind, the absence of any broad general conclusions upon events, and the tendency to degenerate into mere chronicling. Still, each of them is worthy of high commendation as a step in advance, and possesses peculiar and distinctive merits of its own.

SPEECHES OF THE HON. ALEXANDER MACKENZIE, during his recent visit to Scotland, with his principal Speeches since the Session of 1875. Toronto: James Campbell and Son.

This is a timely addition to our permanent political literature, which is at present scanty enough. There are many who do not preserve files of the papers or keep scrap-books, like the late Mr. W. L. Mackenzie, or the living Messrs. Bowell and Rykert, and who yet have occasion, at times, to refer back to the *ipsissima verba* of a party leader. It has often surprised us that collections, like the one before us, are so seldom published. The authorized Debates are, of course, exceedingly valuable for reference, but they necessarily exclude out-of-door utterances, which are often of equal or even greater importance. Mr. Mackenzie's *Sarnia* speech, for example, contains a better comprehensive exposition of the policy and aims of his Administration than any delivered in Parliament. *En passant*, we may express the hope that the Government will assume the responsibility of continuing the "Hansard," as it is absurdly, but conveniently, termed. Individual complaints about the style and length of the reports ought not to outweigh the general convenience, especially where the only alternative is a resort to partisan versions of the Parliamentary debates.

It is unnecessary to enter into any detailed examination of these speeches, because they