

THE BOOK PAGE

It is a period of extraordinary interest in Canadian public life, the twenty years before Confederation and the forty-five years since. It has been the time of the making of Canada. The Hon. James Young was during all these sixty-five years a keen observer of public affairs and in close touch, first as a newspaper reporter and editor, and later as a member of the Dominion Parliament and of the Legislature of Ontario. Mr. Young's wide and first-hand knowledge well fitted him to write the two substantial volumes, **Public Men and Public Life in Canada** (Wm. Briggs, Toronto, Vol. I., 367 pages, \$2 net; Vol. II., 481 pages, \$2.25 net, both freely illustrated). The first volume issued in 1902 and now appearing in a new edition, brings the story down to Confederation; volume two, published a few weeks before the author's lamented death last fall, continues the story almost to the present time. Mr. Young was a Reformer of the old type, and not without his prejudices. These, however, have not prevented him from giving a lucid and, on the whole, fair, account of men and events. Every page of the two bulky volumes is interesting and instructive, but especially so the story of the dawn of the railway age in Canada, the great battle for responsible government in the thirties and forties, and the contests and deadlocks between the old Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada which led to Confederation in 1867; and this followed by the acquisition of the Great Lone West and the extension of the Dominion from the Atlantic to the Pacific. "There were giants in those days," and the writer gives an intimate picture of such as Lord Elgin, Sir Alan McNab and Wm. Lyon Mackenzie and Sir John Macdonald and George Brown, and of how these two last named buried their antagonism for a while in order to bring Confederation about. The later sketches of Lord Dufferin and of Tupper and Mackenzie and Blake and Thompson and Laurier are not less interesting. The "old-timer" will follow Mr. Young in his account of the contests and struggles of all this half-century and more, with the personal interest of one who "was there," and the younger reader will get a first-hand knowledge of very high value, of Canadian public affairs and public men. The money put into these two substantial volumes will be well invested.

A recent issue of **THE TEACHERS MONTHLY** contained a notice of Professor J. E. McFadyen's, *A Cry for Justice*, with the sub-title, *A Study in Amos*, in The Short Course Series edited by Rev. John Adams, B.D. (T. & T. Clark, Edinburgh, U.C. Tract Society, Toronto). Other volumes of the Series received, are: **The Song and the Soil**; Or, *The Missionary Idea of the Old Testament*, by Professor W. G. Jordan, D.D., who, in eight luminous expositions, shows how the great prophets of Israel kept alive, in spite of the prevailing exclusiveness and hatred of heathen nations, the faith in a coming time when Jehovah should be recognized as the God of all nations and peoples of every race should pray to Him. The expositions, with the exception of the first, which gives its title to the volume and is based on Ps. 137, are from the prophetic books. *The City of the Ever-Open Door* (Isa. 60: 11, 12) and *The City Without a Wall* (Zech. 2: 1-5) are

a pair of interesting and suggestive chapter headings. **The Psalm of Psalms**: Being an Exposition of the Twenty-Third Psalm, by Professor James Stalker, D.D. Opening Dr. Stalker's book at the last page, one lights on an Index containing the names of seventeen authors quoted, including Homer and Shakespeare, and coming down to Burns and Browning, and a list of twenty-two topics referred to in the Exposition. This Index is a true measure of the wealth of Dr. Stalker's materials, and as for his arrangement and style, one does not need to paint the lily. **The Higher Powers of the Soul**, by Rev. Geo. McHardy, D.D. The scope of this volume in suggested by its opening quotation from Socrates' entreaty to old and young "first and chiefly to care about the greatest improve-ment of the soul." There is a sound psychology, and, better, the insight of an experienced pastor, behind this discussion of how the spiritual powers,—Conscience, Reason, Memory, Imagination, Faith and Hope, The Will, Love—may be developed under the guidance and inspiration of Christ. Each of the volumes contains an Appendix with a carefully selected list of books and a full and convenient index, and the price of each is 60c.

The Goodly Fellowship (The Macmillan Co. of Canada, Toronto, 325 pages, \$1.25) is a love story by Rachel Capen Schauflier, in which Jean Stuart, of New York and Bar Harbor, a fashionable society girl touring the world, has adventures in Persia and is thrown into contact with Thorley Prescott, a young man who "does things." After many ups and downs, the story has the inevitable ending. A chief interest of the book is the Persian background and the intimate description of travel and of missionary life in that but little known country.

On Board the Beatic, by Anna Chopin Ray (McClelland & Goodchild, Toronto, 379 pages, \$1.30 net), is a romance of a trip across the Atlantic and back with a glimpse of London and Belgium, the principals being Carl Clode, a middle-aged successful man of business and Aileen Warburton, a self-assured woman of thirty-two. The plot is worked out with the deft and sure touches of the real artist, while each of the subordinate characters grouped about the two chief figures possesses a distinct personality. The story is one of absorbing interest greatly enhanced by its exquisite literary finish.

The sub-title, *The Experiences of a Young Emigrant Told from His Letters*, of **A Manitoba Chore Boy** by E. A. Wharton Gill, M.A., Honorary Canon of St. John's Cathedral, Winnipeg (The Religious Tract Society, London, 83 pages; illustrated; price 35 cents, postage paid), aptly sums up this brisk little book. The young emigrant is a son of a clergyman in England, and the letters, written to his mother, describe his first ten months on a Manitoba farm, with its many new experiences. The boy is good stuff, ready to learn; the farmer, capable and kind, is willing to teach, and the lad quickly grows to like the life, and looks forward to a farm of his own. It is in this way that many of Canada's valuable citizens are made.