

ary writers ; for if he cannot catch the literary or linguistic spirit from a study of these it would be hopeless to lead him to the past for inspiration. The study would be chronological in order, though in a backward direction—which is, after all, the only natural direction, since it is more difficult to render familiar what is more remote in time—and no student would be supposed to proceed to the consideration of the older literature and language until he gave evidence of familiarity with the later. Each period of literature and language would be kept before the student from the time when its study is begun until graduation, and thus throughout his course the later forms would always be more familiar than the earlier. Classification, statement of general laws and detailed criticism would come, not at the beginning, but at the close of every study, and philology would be studied only incidentally until a firm foundation could be laid for its systematic treatment. Remembering, too, that a student's undergraduate years are limited to four, and that the best part of his life and consequently his most earnest study are to come when college days are over, it would seem wiser for the present to let the second, third and fourth rate authors rest in peace, except in so far as they specially influence the authors chosen for study.

I have thus far made no distinction between pass and honor courses, which might be determined by different percentages of the same work for the first half of the course, and in the second half both by difference in percentage and in the class of work prescribed. Pass men, for instance, should not be required to take the Anglo-Saxon and systematic philology.

For want of space it will be impossible here to outline a post-graduate course, but no one will say that material would be wanting for three additional years of earnest study in the department of English alone. The undergraduate would find it impossible to explore thoroughly even the highways of English literature, and besides, there still remain the by-ways and hedges. The study of philology, only begun in the undergraduate course, could now be pushed forward with real satisfaction. The aid of Old Saxon, Old Norse, and if time permitted, of Sanscrit also, would have to be sought ; for the study of English philology means first the study of Teutonic and then of Indo-Germanic philology.

J. McW.

Literature.

THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST.*

*Then the poet, little urged,
But with some prelude of disparagement,—
Saying, "Of late the theme has been set forth,
And all the college warblers, mellower-voiced,
With their melodious bursts of song will fill
Our spacious halls, and put my rhyme to shame."—
Read, mouthing out the hollow sounding oes,
His late-penned verses, and to this result :*

BALLADE.

When all a land was stirred,
Before the great birth-throe,
By him that bell unheard,
Clanging LIBERTY, to and fro ;
When men toiled on in the row,
With their tilth overhung by night-mist,
With their trust in God's weather—no seed did he sow,
THE U. E. LOYALIST.

But it thrilled as a God-spoken word,
That loud-clanging bell, long ago ;
And its voice, like a storm-tossed bird,
Shrilled o'er them when fighting the foe.
Now the bell's voice is cracked and snow,
And the LOYALIST dead ; and unwist
To him was its meaning, which thrilled all men so,
THE U. E. LOYALIST,

For when a great people was stirred,
(Now the greatest of peoples, I trow !)
He with himself conferred,
Thought " 'twould be prudent to go,
" All were rebels there, high and low,
" And . . . things had a nasty twist." . . .
And to speed him all true men were not overslow,—
THE U. E. LOYALIST.

L'Evvoi.

Prince, they said, like Ko Ko,
" He never will be missed."
And how much he missed—and was missed—we know :
THE U. E. LOYALIST !

W. J. HEALY.

THE NEW CANADIAN DRAMA.*

(FIRST NOTICE.)

The two most notable Canadian dramas that have seen the light unfortunately do not deal with Canadian subjects. Mr. Hevysege's "Saul," as its title indicates, is a Biblical subject, while Mr. Watson's "Ravlan" is a story of Druid rites in the time of the early tribal kings of Britain. The present production has for its theme, not only a Canadian subject, but a subject of the highest national interest to the Canadian people. It is one, moreover, that peculiarly lends itself to dramatic treatment ; and, in the incidents description, and dialogues, as well as in the portrayal of heroism and passion, puts to the test the finest qualities of the poet. In Mr. Mair's "Tecumseh," not only has he achieved a great and complete success, but in the choice and handling of a grand Canadian theme he has amply justified the poet's function and art, and done more for the future study and appreciation of Anglo-Canadian history than it is possible at present to realize. To many Canadian minds, it is to be feared, Tecumseh is but a name : henceforth—thanks to the author of "Dreamland,"—the noble Shawnee chief will stand forth, and deservedly, as one of those grand figures in Canadian annals whose deeds go far to make the British period of our history dramatic, and whose services to Canada and the Empire at a critical epoch in their history deserve to be forever enshrined in the peoples' memory. Looking at the subject in the light of expectant popular favor, it is perhaps a pity that Mr. Mair did not write a novel rather than a drama ; for dramatic verse, admittedly, addresses the reading taste and sympathies of the few. But the few,—the "fit few"—will be the more grateful that our author, instead of resorting to fiction, has wooed the Muses, and given to native literature a work of higher literary art than his genius was likely to give us in fiction, while, at the same time, he has shown us what may be accomplished, in dealing with a purely Canadian subject, in a department in which it is confessedly difficult to achieve success.

But whatever the vehicle in which the story is presented, it is important that the heroic deeds of the faithful Indian allies of Britain, in the struggle to plant and maintain the flag of the Empire on this continent, should be treasured, and a fitting memory preserved of their loyal services and staunch friendship. Nor should gratitude be lacking, particularly in the Canadian nation, which owes so much to the Indian tribes for the heritage it now

* "The United Empire Loyalists" is the subject announced for the Toronto University Prize Poem.

* "Tecumseh : a Drama," By Charles Mair, author of "Dreamland, and other Poems." Toronto : Hunter, Rose & Co., and Williamson & Co., 1886.