

Volume of *Mémoires* published by *La Société Historique de Montréal*, which deals with the *Voyage de Kalm en Amérique*, and has been translated and edited by M. L. N. Marchand, a Montreal Advocate. Kalm, who was a Swedish botanist of distinction, and a Professor of the University of Upsala, was selected by the great Linnaeus to make a voyage to the United States and Canada, under the auspices and at the expense of the Royal Academy at Stockholm. His purpose was to make a collection of seeds of plants and trees native to the New World, and to describe the physical features and natural productions of the country. The expedition was undertaken in 1748, and covered a period of four years, during which he explored the country from Philadelphia to the White Mountains, thence, via Albany and Saratoga, to Niagara Falls and back to the Quaker City. From the White Mountains he seems to have made his way to Quebec, and in his journals he jotted down matters historical and scientific which Quebec *savants* now deem worthy of reproduction. The present volume, we understand, is only an instalment of the work M. Marchand is about to prepare, and does not as yet deal with the Canadian portion of the narrative. The Montreal Society is to be congratulated on the result, so far, of M. Marchand's work.

BELLES LETTRES.

M. Louis Honoré Fréchette is the foremost representative of that genuine Canadian literature which, since the days of the *Relations des Jésuites*, has flourished in our historic New France. His being singled out in 1880 as the recipient of the highest literary honours from the Academy at Paris has made every Canadian familiar with a name which has won this guerdon for the country. M. Fréchette has written *Pêle-Mêle*, *Les Oui-*

seaux de Neige, and two historical dramas entitled *Papineau* and *Le Retour d'Exile*. The two former consist altogether of lyric verse, mainly descriptive of Canadian scenery; and it may be said that few of our native writers have been so successful in holding the mirror up to nature. Of our English-speaking Canadians, John Reade and Charles Sangster are the writers who come nearest Fréchette in this respect. The French Laureate has made the genius of the Canadian woods and waters his own. His *Vers de Société*, particularly in such compositions as *Un Nuit d'Été* and *Après le Bal*, have a special charm; and, as in the spirited ode to the memory of Papineau, these lyrics are thoroughly in sympathy with liberalism.

Of more permanent value than the volumes of verse hitherto named, however, is *The Coming of the Princess and other Poems*, by Kate Seymour Maclean, of Kingston, and *Orion*, by Charles G. D. Roberts, of Chatham, N. B. Mrs. Maclean's volume contains a number of lyrical poems of which it is not too much to say that they would enrich the literature of any country. Two stanzas of the author's "Proem" have been already quoted; they contain a prophecy which Mrs. Maclean has herself in great measure fulfilled. *Orion*, by Mr. Roberts, is a vigorous example of the neo-classical poetry which came into fashion with Tennyson's "Æneone." Several of the minor poems in the volume, especially those cast in the "ballade" form, are of remarkable beauty, and deserve the place won for them in the pages of *Scribner's Magazine* and the *Canadian Monthly*.

This department will be incomplete without a notice of the literary labours of Professor Goldwin Smith during the years 1880-81. His *Life of Cowper*, in Mr. Morley's "Series of English Men of Letters," though pub-