

the several biographies which are likely to commend them to public attention. There is evidence, moreover, of a wide, and generally accurate, knowledge of Canadian history, and of the events in which the subjects of the sketches took active part. In this respect the book is a capital 'refresher' of matters—political and social—which should be familiar to every Canadian, and especially to any one who has given himself, or intends to give himself, to public life. The biographies are unequal in length, and are occasionally disproportionate to the setting in history which contemporary or subsequent criticism has assigned to the subject of the sketch. This perhaps is to be explained by the paucity of material at the command of the writer in undertaking the biography. It does not seem to be the result of personal predilection, still less is it occasioned by partizan feeling. For the present we can only enumerate the subjects treated of in the volume before us,

trusting in our next to give, in connection with the later instalment of the work, a more lengthy and critical review of this interesting and valuable contribution to Canadian literature. The more important biographies in the present volume are those of: Robert Baldwin, Sir Geo. Cartier, Bishop Strachan, Sir Isaac Brock, Joseph Brant, Rev. Dr. Ryerson, Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Leonard Tilley, Alex. Mackenzie, Edward Blake, Prof. Goldwin Smith, Principal G. M. Grant, the late Chief Justice Moss, &c., &c. We need hardly add that a work got up at such expense as this, and of so great an interest to the people of Canada, should meet with a most generous and far-reaching reception, for only by the most hearty and golden response will our native writers and publishers be induced to put such works on the market, and be incited to follow them up by others of an equally creditable and satisfactory character.

The voluminous Report of the Ontario Agricultural Commission, of which the Hon. S. C. Wood is Chairman, and Mr. Alfred H. Dymond, Secretary, has just reached us as we are about to close the present number. We cannot here do more than acknowledge receipt of the volumes, and express our gratification at the mass of information, of so useful a character and having so practical a bearing upon a vast industry in the Province, which the Report brings so exhaustively within reach. The range of subjects treated of may be gathered from the following enumeration: Fruit Culture; Forestry and Arboriculture; Insects and Insectivorous Birds; Bee Farming; General Farming; Dairying; Horse Breeding; Poultry and Eggs; the Salt Trade; Manures; Agricultural Education, &c. The work is divided into six parts, each dealing within a special department: the first consisting of the Commissioners' Report proper; the second containing returns relating to the soil, climate, and cultivable area of the Province; and the others containing evidence relating to special departments of enquiry. We hope in a subsequent issue to give a review of the results of the Commission's work, and meantime commend the Report to the consideration of those whom it is intended to benefit.

The completing volumes of Mr. T. H. Ward's Selections from the English Poets, with critical introductions by various writers, and a general preface by Mr. Matthew Arnold, have just appeared. Nothing could well exceed the worth and interest of these volumes. In the last instalment of the series we find Mr. Goldwin Smith's critical introduction to Sir Walter Scott's poems. A review of the early volumes of the work appears in our present number.

'An Anecdotal History of the British Parliament,' compiled by Mr. G. H. Jennings, has just appeared from the press of a London publisher, and been instantly reprinted in New York. The work consists of carefully verified and striking facts illustrating the rise and progress of Parliamentary institutions, together with a multitude of stories about the statesmen and politicians who have contributed to their development. A perusal of the book will wonderfully lighten up the dry facts of English constitutional history. The reprinters are the Messrs. Appleton & Co, of New York; and the Canadian Agents, Messrs Hart & Rawlinson, Toronto.

The subject of the new volume of the Cunningham Lectures (Scotland) for 1880, is, 'Unbelief in the Eighteenth Century.' The lecturer is the Rev. Dr. John Cairns.