

son desired to place on record certain documentary evidence of which he was in possession, as to the eventful history of Methodism in what is now known as Old Canada. Of those stirring events, in which he played so prominent a part, it is more than probable that the honoured writer of these essays could speak with greater fulness of the information than any other man. He wrote, not to revive dead issues or buried animosities, but rather, by a calm appeal to reason and to historic facts, to allay them forever.

"So anxious was Dr. Ryerson to avoid all ground of reasonable offence that he gave the Editor of the periodical, in which these essays appeared, full authority to suppress or modify any passage that might be justly construed as offensive in tone or spirit. The Editor, however, did not feel at liberty, in essays which had been formally requested by three Annual Conferences, to do more than modify an occasional phrase, and to relegate to the volume of collected essays a considerable amount of matter for which there was not space in the MAGAZINE for which they were primarily prepared. It will be found, therefore, that this volume is not a mere reprint of the essays as they were published from month to month; but that it contains a large amount of new matter which has not heretofore appeared. It will possess also, to the many admirers of its beloved and honoured author, a melancholy interest as being the latest production of that pen which, during a long and busy life, was ever wielded in the defence of civil and religious liberty.

"And yet this volume is even now incomplete. During the very last interview which the present writer had with his revered and honoured friend, shortly before his death, Dr. Ryerson strongly expressed the wish that he might be permitted, before he should depart hence, to write a concluding chapter of an entirely irenic character, that should completely remove any undesigned asperities and acerbities of those already pub-

lished. We can bear witness that no rancour, no bitter memories entered into the preparation of these papers, that the heart of the writer was full of gentleness and love, of sweetness and light; and that as he drew nearer to the eternal world of light and love its radiance more and more seemed to illumine his soul.

"If there be anything that is polemical in this volume, or that is calculated to excite controversy, let it be read in the light of the latest utterance of him who wrote it; in the light of the resolutions breathing only sentiments of peace and brotherhood towards the once estranged branches of Methodism, and especially seeking to consign to oblivion all the painful memories of the past, which he submitted to the last conferences which he was permitted to attend; and in the spirit of the wider sympathies and warmer love which are knitting together the hearts of a common Methodism throughout the world.

" 'Let us then, uniting, bury
All our idle feuds in dust,
And to future conflicts carry
Mutual faith and common trust;
Always he who most forgiveth to his
brother is most just.' "

The Life of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; with Critical and Descriptive Sketches of his Writings. By FRANCIS H. UNDERWOOD. Illustrated. Boston: B. B. Russell. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Price, \$1.50.

This Life of America's greatest poet was begun several months before his death, and had not only his consent but his assistance in furnishing data and papers. The author possessed the advantage of long and intimate acquaintance with the poet, and was himself the projector of the *Atlantic Monthly*, the leading literary magazine of America. He is, therefore, particularly well furnished for the task he has undertaken. The volume gives not only the family history of the poet, and the record of his life and literary successes, but is also enriched by intelligent criticisms of