

*The Life of Adoniram Judson.* By his Son, EDWARD JUDSON. 8vo, pp. 601. New York: Anson D. F. Randolph & Co. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Price, \$2.50.

The literature of missions is especially rich in heroic biography. And few figures in the recent missionary annals are of more heroic mould than that of Adoniram Judson. About his life story there is an atmosphere of romance which is absent from the history of even such pioneers as Carey, Marshman or Morrison. Few men have ever suffered such persecution as he, and fewer still have ever endured it with such heroic fortitude and such saintly patience. No man that we ever heard of has had three such holy and gifted women as wives and helpmeets as he. And like the apostolic Coke, his body was committed to the keeping of the Indian Sea till the deep gives up its dead.

This ample biography by his son, is prepared from copious material, and is not only a life-record of Dr. Judson, but a history of the early evangelization of Burmah. It is embellished with steel portraits and wood engravings, and is enriched with copious extracts, from the journals of Judson and from the writings of his accomplished wives. A volume of such deep interest deserves more than a passing notice. We shall, therefore, in an early number of this Magazine, make it the subject of a special article.

*The Last Forty Years — Canada since the Union of 1841.* By JOHN CHARLES DENT. Geo. Virtue, publisher, Toronto. Parts XIX & XX. Fifty cents per part.

These numbers complete Mr. Dent's admirable history. They fully sustain the character of the work, the earlier numbers of which have called forth repeated encomiums in these pages. It is a task of peculiar delicacy to treat in a historical work recent political events and living political characters. Mr. Dent has endeavoured throughout to be studiously impartial, and we have failed to discover any instance where he has not been so. He is master

of an admirable historical style, and has made good use of the copious but widely scattered materials upon which any history of recent times must be based. The closing chapter, one of forty pages on literature and journalism in Canada, is the best treatment of the subject that we know—much better, both for comprehensiveness and critical spirit, than the rather pretentious book of Mr. J. G. Bourinot on a kindred topic. One invaluable feature of the book is an index of over 50 pages—a feature which, though often omitted, in a work like this of over 1000 pages is quite indispensable. We congratulate the author on the completion of such a valuable contribution to our national literature.

*Claribel and Other Poems.* By WALTER MALONE. 12mo, pp. 297. Louisville, Ky: John P. Morton & Co. 1882.

This book is one of the curiosities of literature, a volume of poems of nearly 300 pages, written by a boy under sixteen years of age. Not even in the case of Chatterton, "the marvellous boy," had so much and such good poetry been written at so young an age. The first poem, "Inez, a Tragedy of old Spanish Life," was written before he was fourteen. The next is a poem in *Speserian stanza* of sixty pages. "The Story of a Wizard Age;" is "a tale of love and hate and weary wars," in the England of Cœur de Lion, seven hundred years ago. "Claribel, a Florentine Tragedy," was written in the space of four weeks. But that would be slight merit unless it had real value, which it has. We learn from the modest preface that the author was a farmer-boy, with few educational advantages. We are glad to learn that the merit of these poems has procured him the advantages of a university course, which he is now pursuing. We augur for him, if he continue to exhibit the same diligence and energy, a brilliant future. Of course his poems cannot but be immature and in places defective in harmony. But the boy who has done so well so young, we are sure will do better when older.