

In his sketch of the past, Dr. Bourinot marks three well defined periods of development. First, the period of the French Regime, marked by the names of Champlain, Les-carbot, Charlevoix and others, in whose works we have a library of historical literature of priceless value. Then comes the period of political development under English government from 1760-1840, when education was defective, and the people too much occupied with the struggle for existence, to have time to develop any literary activity. This was a period, too, of political controversy, to which the best intellects of the time were devoted. We note, however, the name of Judge Haliburton, the creator of "Sam Slick." The third period is from 1840-1867 when, though political life still claimed the best intellects, we find considerable performance in history, literature and science, and some striking names in poetry. This brings the work to our own time, and he is able to point to much good work done in all departments, and to the promise of much more. In history and in poetry there are many prominent names, but in fiction little has been done. Dr. Bourinot points, with hope to several names of successful Canadian writers of fiction abroad, including amongst them Gilbert Parker, one who was closely connected with Trinity. There is an interesting comparison with Australian literature, and here we may note that the chief Australian success has been in the field of fiction. In poetry Canada need not fear comparison with Australia.

The section on the subject of education, which we quoted in full in our last number, is weighty, and contains several notes of warning, and that on the subject of art is hopeful and suggestive.

The history of the Royal Society of Canada, its foundation and arms, finds a natural place in the volume.

Throughout the volume there is a cordial recognition of the due influence of the French language and literature, an influence which the author feels will be with us for many a long generation. He sees therein the stimulus of a friendly rivalry.

We are grateful to Dr. Bourinot for this book.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.*

We have received from Messrs. Hart & Riddell, the well-known booksellers and publishers on King Street, the above collection of essays. They have been already widely circulated and discussed, as anything from the pen of Mr. Goldwin Smith is certain to be. Few can write as he can, or present a case with such clearness and vigour. In the volume are things new and old. Some of the essays have already seen the light in various periodicals, but those who have seen them will be glad to have them in their new dress and present companionship. The essays are eight in number, and deal with the following subjects: Social and Industrial Revolution, The Question of Disestablishment, The Political Crisis in England, The Empire, Woman Suffrage, The Jewish Question, The Irish Question and Prohibition in Canada and the United States. These are all treated, as the writer says in the preface, from the standpoint of a Liberal of the old school, who, looking for improvement, not for regeneration, when a nostrum or panacea is offered, is inclined to take a critical attitude.

Canadians will probably turn at once to the essay on the Empire, and to that part of it where the position of Canada is discussed. They will find Mr. Goldwin Smith's well-known views put with clearness and force. Both from the

*Essays on Questions of the Day. By Goldwin Smith, D.C.L. Toronto: Hart & Riddell.

Canadian and the British point of view he urges the disadvantage of the present dependent relationship of Canada to Great Britain. No doubt in this connection, as throughout the essays, Mr. Smith makes too little of sentiment; but, at any rate, here he has the excuse that those who shout loyalty the loudest do not let that sentiment interfere with their policy of taxing heavily the goods of the mother country.

With Imperial Federation the essayist has no sympathy, and points out the practical difficulties thereof with unpleasant distinctness, and certainly the present condition of the movement justifies his criticisms.

Mr. Goldwin Smith, as everybody knows is strongly opposed to Home Rule. In his essay on the Irish Question we note that want of sympathy with, and feeling of contempt for the Irish as a race, which marks nearly all the opponents of the movement from Lord Salisbury downward. It may be right to refuse Ireland Home Rule in our own interests; we may conscientiously believe that it would be bad for the Irish people themselves, but do not let us add insult to what they conceive to be injury. Our mistake with Ireland has always been that we have not tried to conciliate Irish ideas, but when we have tried to be kind and just we have invariably treated the Irish people as children who were to be given what we considered to be good for them.

The essay on Social and Industrial Revolution should be read by all those, and they are numerous, who are interested in social questions. It will probably make some of them pause before they give in their adherence to the numerous panaceas for our social ills which are in the air. The criticism of "Looking Backward" and other Utopias is destructive.

We have not space to allude to all the articles. That on the Jewish Question is remarkable. It is pointed out that the Anti-Semitic movement is less religious and more economical and social than is supposed. With the movement Mr. Smith shows some sympathy, and gives good reason for it.

The essays on Woman Suffrage and Prohibition are delightful reading for men who are opposed to both these crazes. These two movements are closely interlinked. The one is advocated in order to make it easier to carry the other. The absurdities and dangers of both are most forcibly stated by the essayist and might well make the thinking people, if such there be, who support either hesitate before they pursue their course further. We trust these two essays will be carefully read and considered.

O. R.

THE ART OF PLUCK:

BEING a treatise after the fashion of Aristotle; writ for the use of students in the Universities. To which is added fragments from the Examinations Papers by Scribeurs Redivivus.

In a university review, the republication of this once famous little treatise should attract attention. The "Pluck" examination papers were published so long ago as 1836, and the following year saw the first appearance of the "Art of Pluck." Many things have greatly changed since then, and not least the old universities, but the general characteristics of those who attend them remain much the same, as may be seen from the following extracts:—

"Now the freshman differeth from the man of standing in these respects. He often weareth his cap and gown, sometimes bearing a walking stick also. He calleth another "Sir." He speaketh of the boys at his college."