

Notices of Books.

"A good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life."—MILTON.

It is a matter of congratulation that true criticism is still the important feature of the College press. Though this department has been omitted by some, and by others carried on in a more or less heartless and spiritless manner that deters readers from looking at such pages, yet it is a fact worthy of note that so many of the fraternity afford their clientele of readers such honest, impartial and original criticism. And the College magazine that can not maintain independent work in this department, will speedily relegate itself out of the publishing world. Derelict in his duty would be the critic, who sacrifices his independent attitude by a superficial examination of a work, for such would be to an intelligent reader only a mere advertisement for the publishing house.

The true critic gives his best, independent of religious, national or other considerations, and thus true merit will always be appreciated and error vigorously denounced. The extravagances and inconsistencies of a Canadian writer, are just as reprehensible as similar faults would be when found in the works of an American author. Neither are American publishers to be bowed to with obsequious deference, nor Canadian firms to be acknowledged with any extra degree of fear or of reverence. No such criticism as "too Canadian, too Catholic," etc., would then catch the eye of the reader. False criticism injures the reviewer, misleads the publisher, and deceives the reader.

THE LANE THAT HAD NO TURNING: By Gilbert Parker, Geo. Morang & Co., Toronto.

That Gilbert Parker has a distinct claim on the appreciation of readers is evidenced by the eagerness and avidity with which his novels have been received. Meritorious indeed, have been his works as a Canadian litterateur and generous has been the appreciation of thousands of readers who have enjoyed that series which "The Lane that had no Turning," now brings to a close. Appearing at a time too when the national question threatens to break