

LUNDY'S LANE.

In his address before the Lundy's Lane Historical Society, Professor Ernest Cruikshank deals with works of reference, and throws a welcome light on the labours of the Dominion Archivist, Mr. Douglas Brymner. It has not infrequently, especially of late years, been asserted that nothing was inflicted by the Americans upon Canadians but what was justifiable by the rules of war. Quoting Major McFarland, of the 23rd U.S. Infantry, we find that "The whole population is against us. Not a foraging party goes out but is fired on and frequently returns with diminished numbers. This state was to have been anticipated. The Indians and militia have plundered and burnt everything." This partizan warfare, says Mr. Cruikshank, grew daily keener. On the 15th an American waggon train was attacked at Queenston and the greater part of it destroyed. The following night the picket guard at Fort Erie was cut off to a man. These incidents so exasperated the invaders that upon the 19th they burnt the entire village of St. Davids, containing some thirty or forty houses (and mills and stores), and followed this up by the destruction of every dwelling between Queenston and Niagara Falls. These proceedings were attended by such rioting conduct on the part of their militia, under Col. Stone, that Major McFarland, who was sent to cover their retreat, declared that he would have resigned his commission if the commanding officer had not been dismissed the service.

Recounting each engagement on the frontier as it occurred, and pointing its results on the campaign, Mr. Cruikshank keeps his subject well in hand until at last he reaches his climax, Lundy's Lane. Here his power of clear narration is fully exemplified, and the terrible struggle of that July night is depicted in all its awful grandeur. He says: "The remainder of the British artillery was at the same time brought forward, until the muzzles of the guns were only a few yards asunder, and the battle thenceforward became a confused, ferocious and sanguinary struggle, waged frequently at the bayonet's point, or with clubbed muskets, the British striving desperately to regain the ground they had lost, and their opponents to thrust them down into the hollow beyond and drive them from the field. Regiments, companies and sections were broken up and mingled together. They retired, rallied, and were led to the charge again."

On the question of which was the victor in this engagement, which, strangely enough, has been claimed by the Americans, the address speaks plainly and gives ample proof to sustain itself in the notes of reference freely distributed upon nearly every page. "The battlefield remained in the undisturbed possession of the British during the night, but they were in no condition to pursue their disorganized enemies. Pearson's brigade marched fourteen miles, and had been deprived of sleep the night before; Morrison's detachment had accomplished the same distance, and the remainder, not less than twenty-five miles in the heat of a July day. Almost one-third of their entire number had been killed or wounded, or were missing. The survivors were utterly exhausted, and threw themselves down to rest among the dead and dying upon the blood-stained hill they had finally reconquered.

"Thus ended the most stubbornly contested and sanguinary engagement ever fought in the

Province of Ontario, after having continued five hours and twenty-three minutes (letter dated Fort Erie, July 28, in *Alexandria Herald*.) By American writers it is frequently styled the Battle of Bridgewater or Niagara Falls; in British official records it is known by the name of Niagara, and, in commemoration of the fact, the Royal Scots, the 8th, the 41st and the 89th bear that word emblazoned on their colours, but among Canadians it usually receives the more homely appellation of Lundy's Lane."

To quote further would be to go beyond the province of a review, and nothing less than a perusal of the address could satisfy the student, or ought to satisfy any Canadian. It remains, therefore, but to state that two appendixes are given, one containing the official return of the loss of British troops in the action of July 25th, 1814, the other the names of both British and American officers killed and wounded in the same engagement. A map of the battlefield is also given.

The prospectus of the Lundy's Lane Historical Society, to whose patriotic energy the Canadian public, as well as the immediate residents of Drummondville, owe the existence and publication of this the first fruits of their society, is bound up with the address and gives a description of the memorial proposed for Lundy's Lane battleground, for which subscriptions are asked. As will be seen by the map the battle-ground is now a cemetery, and very fittingly so, for there were buried in trenches the bodies of nearly seven hundred men who fell fighting for Canada; and there lies Laura Secord, the heroine of 1812, while on every hand the tombstones tell of patriots, loyalists and pioneers whose dust makes holy the place.

S.A.C.

CANADIAN COPYRIGHT.

A deputation from the Canadian Copyright Association, consisting of Messrs. J. Ross Robertson (President), A. S. Irving, A. W. Croil, G. H. Strickling, R. T. Lanceford, D. A. Rose, Toronto; John Macfarlane, J. Lovell and Ald. J. Rolland, Montreal, had an interview with the members of the Privy Council, on the 22nd ult., with reference to the Berne Copyright Bill which was introduced in the House last session but not passed. In the absence of Sir John Macdonald, who had gone to Montreal to attend the Board of Trade banquet, Hon. Mr. Bowell presided. The deputation presented a draft bill prepared by the Copyright Association as well as a numerously signed petition against the Berne Bill. In the discussion that followed it was pointed out on behalf of the publishers that the "Berne Bill" would be ruinous to Canadian interests if it were carried into effect, as the printing of a British Copyright in Canada would be rendered unnecessary. At present a work of which an exclusive copyright is desired must be printed in Canada, thus giving work to Canadian printers, electrotypers, etc. Stress was laid upon the fact that Canadian publishers would no longer, if the "Berne Bill" were adopted, be able to secure the right to publish cheap editions of British copyright works; and because the importation of reprints of British copyright works from the United States would be absolutely prohibited, practically all cheap literature in Canada would be forbidden, because Canadian booksellers would have to purchase British copyrights at the expensive rate they are sold at in England. A great grievance with the Canadian trade is that

under the Copyright Act every work copyrighted in Great Britain is copyrighted in Canada, but the importation of reprints of such works is not prohibited unless the work is actually manufactured in Canada. Many United States authors first publish their works in Great Britain, securing their copyright there and thus indirectly securing copyright in Canada, whilst Canadians are denied copyright in the United States. Hon. Mr. Bowell promised that the matter should be considered by the Government.

Of course, there stands threatening in the way one almost all-powerful influence—the British publisher, and the difficulty will be to come to terms with him. The hardships of the Canadian printer and publisher is truly grievous, the importation of British copyright books, though the American market being rudely debarred, unless the English rates of sales were paid. The Hon. Mr. Bowell has a knotty task before him. Whatever may be his individual opinion, he will take the views of the Privy Council and thus the difficulties of the case will have to be canvassed. We sincerely hope that the result may be favourable to our printers and publishers, as nothing would be so conducive to the promotion of Canadian literature as the removal of the Berne Bill, and a broad system and fair trial of a national copyright.

LITERARY NOTES.

I have several announcements of literary interest from my friend, Mr. James Hannay, now editor of the *Evening Gazette*, St. John, N.B.

He has written, in five numbers of *The Gazette*, the History of the Sunbury Settlement, a paper read before the Literary and Historical Society, which he hopes to use as part of a History of Nova Scotia settlements, after the expulsion of the Acadians, including the Loyalist settlements, a sort of continuation of his History of Acadia.

Last winter Mr. Hannay wrote a History of the War of 1812, which will be published shortly in Toronto.

He is also writing a History of St. John, which will run through the *Gazette* for about a month, and then be published in book form.

A literary friend, of Toronto, sends the editor the three following paragraphs of interest:—

"With reference to the paper on the poem of Mr. Phillips Stewart, Harrison, who wrote it, sailed on Saturday for a year's tour in Europe; and Stewart told me a few nights ago that there was not a spare copy of the book which he could put his hands on in the country. His publishers are Kegan Paul, Trench & Co., and they sent out only a small number of the poems here. Whether this was their own or Stewart's idea I don't know. Stewart, who is quite a young fellow, was Laureate in his years at Toronto University."

"The only verses of Bliss Carman I have seen are those which I have read in the *DOMINION ILLUSTRATED*, and I observe that you speak very highly of them. I mean to read them over a few times again carefully. For myself, unfortunately, I can't speak of poetry at all scientifically; but can only measure it, as I do pictures, by what pleases, or does not please, me,—by the extent to which it stirs up a pleasurable or reverent feeling. I dare say it is a wild and barbarian method of criticism, but I judge of the merits of a writer of poetry, not by his word jugglery, but solely by his ability to crowd into his verse a strong thought or a strong feeling. Tennyson's "In Memoriam" is, to my mind, a fine specimen of this. One finds so much subject in it for meditation. Carman, I should judge, has a nice, poetic mind, of much delicacy, and it may be, we shall see, of strength."

"By the way, you published some time ago in the *ILLUSTRATED* "The Curse of Doneraile," and you credited it to Cormac O'Kelly, a bard. Looking over some old Irish books and papers in my collection, I came upon something which I am inclined to think correct, namely, that this absurd poem, well known in the South of Ireland, was written by a schoolmaster of the County Galway, called Pat O'Kelly, whose high opinion of his own merits may be understood by his travesty of the sonnet commencing "Three poets in three distant ages born," and in it alluding to himself, Byron and Scott, winding up by saying,

"'T would take a Byron and a Scott, I tell ye,
Combined in one to make a Pat O'Kelly."

Readers of his vigorous curse will be astonished to learn that Lady Doneraile, having given him a "watch and seal" in lieu of the one he "lost in Doneraile," he wrote an elaborate eulogium on the place."