

more ridicule of, than sympathy with his kind, he will have but a narrow niche in the temple where Hood sits the presiding genius. Of the sterner and graver works of this author we can say but little, his 'Bubbles of Canada,' written for the politicians, did not meet with much favour even from that class. His 'Rule and Misrule,' made him many enemies. Its only friends were those belonging to the old school, to which the judge pays devoted allegiance. The 'Old Judge, or Life in the Colonies,' is to our thinking his best work, combining at once many of the attributes which constitute an agreeable and valuable work. We are nearly forgetting the first production which brought him into notice, and for which we as Nova Scotians are indebted to him—the 'History of Nova Scotia.' But after we have given him all due credit for his efforts in rescuing from rust and decay the first records of his native land, and leaving to its children a memorial of their ancestors and their deeds, we may say in all honesty that the writer might have made a more interesting volume. True, he had small materials to build up a work, but he might have done more with those he had. His history is the most bald, bare statement of facts that could be written. It has no embellishment and little interest apart from the subject of the work. A skilful hand could have wrought a pleasant volume out of those few materials in the early history of Nova Scotia, and we regret that Haliburton either had not the inclination or the gift to render his account of it more than a dry book of reference. We do not wish, however, to be censorious on one whose genius has made his birthplace known. We honour him inasmuch as Nova Scotia is honoured through him. Few, however, bear better the lash of criticism than one who has applied it so severely to others. He is confessedly a great man in the world of letters, he has made for himself a reputation, but to secure it he must either retire from the field and rest on the laurels he has already won, or strike out a new path which he can tread with success. He has exhausted his Yankeeisms, and his last work consequently did not receive the approbation it merited. We think it equal to any work he has written in that style—superior to those intervening between the first series of 'the Clockmaker' and the 'Wise Saws,' but this is an age of progression, and men will not rest satisfied with many editions in the same style. The present day is marked by rapidity of thought and novel experiments. Ideas will not run in the same channel for fourteen years, and Judge Haliburton to continue successful must conform to the dictates of the age.

Passing from him and the humourists of the mother country, of which there are many who have not come under our review, not from want of merit but limited acquaintance with their works, we can but give a glance to the 'merric brethren' in the United States. Willis is probably the most prominent of them, and he combines gracefulness with comicality. His 'Pencilings by the Way,' written during his visit to Britain, though not strictly a humorous work, has yet enough of those pleasant touches to make it rank in that cate-