

of our opportunities ; let us love our native land and teach our pupils patriotism ; whatever thoughts we may entertain of the mother country, let us be true to Canada, and help to hasten the day when her population, as industrious as the beaver, shall be

as numerous as the leaves on the maple, so that when she has reached the zenith of her fame, and attained the stature of nationhood, it may be said of us, as of our fathers, that, in our day and generation, we did our duty nobly and well !

CARLYLE'S "REMINISCENCES."

BY A. H. MORRISON, CENTRAL SCHOOL, GALT.

IT would, perhaps, be too much to affirm that the fame of Carlyle as a writer has suffered by the publication of his "Reminiscences." Considered from a literary standpoint his fame is established, and even when received in conjunction with the eccentricities of his genius, and the marked peculiarities of his style, it will hardly now suffer deterioration. That nothing has, however, been added to the public estimate of the man, as man alone, type of imperfect, suffering, yet hopeful and not altogether unsympathetic humanity, is a fact which cannot be disproved ; it must be patent even to his warmest admirers and well-wishers, of which, in an age of philosophical investigation and honest outspoken thought like the present, there cannot fail to be many.

Carlyle as a delineator of self has not succeeded in producing an agreeable portraiture. In the depicting of personal traits of character, as well as in the manifestation of the far finer faculty of appreciating genuine merit in others, he has failed lamentably to advance any claim upon the sympathies or affections of the great human family, be that family never so much given to hero and more especially to Carlyle worship.

The whole narrative from beginning to end, racked like the frame of its unhappy originator, is suffering from a species of verbal dyspepsia, which no medicative art of individual will, however strongly exerted, can cure, nor hygienic touch of outside sympathy, however delicately administered, alleviate. His estimate of men and things is too often warped and one-sided. Not a trustworthy biographer by any means, he is as little of a seer ; his prognostications for the future fail to establish a hold upon the convictions of his reader, and his strictures on men are manifestly too often not the unprejudiced decisions of a calm, deliberate judgment, or even the promptings of an intellectual instinct, supplemented by generous fellow feeling, but rather mere miasmatic mental emanations from the unhealthy sources of a martyred and distorted physical system. Even his complimentary notices of those contemporaries not stigmatized as being altogether fools and nonentities — few and far between as they are — appear too frequently tinged with the indelible stain of an invidious after-smirch ; grudgingly accorded, they forcibly remind one of the scrap offerings held out to a vagrant dog, which are but lures to attract the victim