

## BOOK REVIEWS AND LITERARY NOTES

### THE STORY OF THE HIGHLAND REGIMENTS.

*Frederick Watson. A. & C. Black, Ltd., London. Agents: The Macmillan Co. of Canada, Ltd., Toronto. \$1.50.*

The title of this book would be misleading were it not for the fact that the author is at pains in his preface to explain that the choice of the word "story" in preference to "history" is deliberate. But history it is, in the fullest sense of the word—and what a history! Ever since the tragic field of Culloden, which marked the close of the last rebellion of the clans against the King of England, if for "History of the Highland Regiments" we write "History of the British Empire," we shall gain some impression of the great rôle played by the Highland Regiments in the conquest of the lands and peoples which compose that Empire.

Pitt the Elder it was who recognized in the Highlanders of the various clans qualities which, when guided into proper channels, could not but characterize soldiers of the highest worth and merit. Brought up in comparative poverty, and sworn to obey his chief, whose word was absolute, the Highlander was imbued from his earliest days with the idea that courage was the most honourable virtue, cowardice the most disgraceful failing. Devoted to his native country and clan, and at all times fearful lest he should in any manner disgrace the tartan, the Highlander was peculiarly fitted to make a fine type of soldier in the service of the King. It was, therefore, little short of a stroke of genius on Pitt's part to have preserved a formation or organization approaching as nearly as possible that of the clan in which these Highland qualities could be most strikingly brought out and developed.

Various Highland Regiments were recruited from the wild mountains of Scotland, each of these bearing a distinctive name, usually that of the leader by whom it was raised, and wearing his tartan. Thus we have Fraser's Highlanders, raised in 1757, celebrated for the part they took in the capture of Quebec by Wolfe in 1759. These were later absorbed into the Seafortths. Many separate regiments were formed about this time, only to be disbanded or absorbed later on.

The Highland Regiments as we know them to-day came into being toward the latter part of the eighteenth century, with the exception indeed of the Black Watch, which dates from as early as 1725, when it consisted of a few companies forming a kind of vigilance corps of militia for preserving order amongst the clansmen. As early as 1745, however, the Black