

the ministry and the clerical profession, and entered upon a course of study best calculated in his opinion to fit him for authorship and the platform, broadly interpreted. He went abroad and made a thorough examination of English commercial methods, — her trade relations, her land system, and the tendency of her social and political forces. He remained a close observer of the great battle between Gladstone and D'Israeli, which ended in the triumph of the former, and then returned to his own country and entered upon a study of the resources and characteristics of this continent. To this investigation he devoted six years, and when he has completed his present extensive tour he will have personally visited, with the exception of Alaska, every representative section of the continent between Hudson's Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, and between Newfoundland and Vancouver. Few public or literary men, if any, have studied so thoroughly the resources of this continent, and the vast problems growing out of our continental development, as Mr. Murray. It is greatly to be desired, from every point of view, that one so well equipped for intelligent and candid discussion of these problems may be constrained by popular encouragement to do so.

In his self-command, in his reserve force, in the purity of his language, almost wholly Saxon, in quiet intensity and grace of style, in dignity of bearing, in clearness of statement, in the finish of his sentences, and in charm of his manner, he stands alone, although suggesting comparison, in one or more of these attributes, with many great writers.

Three years ago he began to read his now celebrated story, "How John Norton the Trapper kept his Christmas," and the people have insisted on hearing the author render this quaint, humorous, and pathetic bit of realism until it has already passed its three hundred and fiftieth delivery from the platform, and has been sold in book-form by thousands.