

The Scandinavians have admittedly done much to build up the Northwest, materially and morally. Some of this work has been of such a kind as to admit of no statistical record. It has been the silent influence of individual character working out its career according to its light and its native bent. The results have in many cases, especially in religion and in education, taken distinct color from the Norse character. In other cases, for instance in politics, as Mr. Nelson points out, the Scandinavian contribution—such as it has been—is hardly to be distinguished from that made by the native Americans. And this, it is safe to say, has been due less to numerical weakness than to a process of rapid Americanizing.

Since personal character counts for so much, and since much of what Norse energy has achieved in this country is due to individual rather than to organized effort, it is quite proper that a work like this should contain biographies. The greater part of each volume is therefore given over to short sketches of men who have, or are thought to have, attained some success or eminence in their respective callings. The biographies bear, on the whole, the mark of having been carefully and judiciously prepared. Though many of them will possess but little interest to the average reader, yet they form, taken together, a rough index to the traits and qualities of the nationalities with which they are concerned. In some cases the biographies are more elaborate, and properly so. The principle of selection is not always obvious. Some names, at least as well known as several of those included, are omitted; perhaps the owners did not choose to furnish the data. In a work of this kind, dealing often with an enterprise in one article and with a leading promoter of it in another, some repetition was to be expected. Yet more caution might perhaps have been exercised to avoid it. Facts of an impersonal nature have no necessary place in a short biography. Thus, for instance, it would be hard to show how an account of certain dedication exercises (Vol. II., p. 241) throws any appreciable light on a man's life.

Mr. Nelson's undertaking is a commendable one, and he has shown himself qualified to carry it on. He is understood to have the intention of preparing one or more additional volumes to deal with the subject in other states. In this gleaning process naturally some things will be gathered that future workers will think it well to sift out, but the sifting is sure to yield its reward.

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*A History of Canada.* By CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS. (Boston, New York, London: Lamson, Wolfe and Co. 1897. Pp. xi, 493.)

Mr. ROBERTS's book is a compilation only, but it is on the whole a successful one. There is promise of a flood of histories of Canada. Three have appeared within a year, but we miss, in them all, original inquiry and independent views. The Canadian Confederation is thirty years old and a strong national life has begun to develop. The world

wants to know all about Canada, but Canadian scholars have not thrown themselves into the work of inquiry as we may hope that they will. Writers on the French period, for instance, still echo Parkman and the French historians who worked before him.

Mr. Roberts is a recruit in history who comes from the fields of poetry and fiction. It must be admitted that, with certain advantages, this brings also drawbacks. The poet is impatient of the laborious sifting of evidence that scientific history involves, and his imagination is apt to cause him to jump at conclusions. It is amusing to see Mr. Roberts settling offhand a question about which volumes of controversy have been written. Thus John Cabot on his first voyage "reached the continent at a point which is now Canadian territory" (p. 6) and he was also the "illustrious discoverer" of Prince Edward Island (p. 180). Mr. Roberts draws upon his imagination too when he pictures the Jesuits, on the shores of the Georgian Bay, as practising princely hospitality, and thus promoting sloth among the whole tribe of Huron warriors (p. 61). Does he realize that everything which the Jesuits possessed reached them by the laborious route of the Ottawa, and was carried in canoes, and, across portages, on the backs of men? Their "princely" hospitality must have been based mainly upon the slender crops which they were themselves able to cultivate.

However, the mistakes of this nature, after all, amount to very little. A more serious fault is that Mr. Roberts sometimes does not find a correct historical setting for events in Canada and that his judgment is often hasty and prejudiced. At the time that Jacques Cartier was entering the St. Lawrence English navigators were not yet "battling with the ships of Spain in the tropics" (p. 8). That struggle came later, in the days of Elizabeth. Whatever ill-informed historians may say, Louisbourg was not surprised in 1745 (p. 17). Some of Warren's ships were already there when Pepperrell's transports arrived, and the garrison had received abundant information about the English plans. Mr. Roberts, in his contempt for the "Boston Tea Party," describes it as "a childish farce" (p. 165), but he seems to overlook the one salient fact that tea was the article chosen by the British government to tax in order to assert authority over the colonies. His prejudices cause him to miss the point again in regard to the *Caroline* incident (p. 300). The trouble was not that the *Caroline* was an American vessel, but that, to cut her out, a Canadian armed force invaded United States territory and committed acts of violence.

Of minor inaccuracies there are a good many. A baronet is not technically a "noble" (p. 48) and a "C. B." would not be a knight (p. 245, note). So ardent a patriot should not call the United States "America" (pp. 360 and 370). Dr. Selwyn resigned the headship of the Geological Survey of Canada some years ago (p. 421). The recently published life of the Marquis de la Jonquière goes to show that he did not grow rich in Canada (p. 122). Mr. Roberts pictures the Chignecto Ship Railway for transporting ships by rail from the Bay of Fundy to the

Gulf of St. Lawrence as being a work of brilliant promise (p. 429). Is he aware that it has been practically abandoned, and that the unfortunate shareholders have probably lost hopelessly the millions which they invested in it? A good many mistakes in the spelling of names need not be designated here. It is not a slight defect, too, that no account of the aborigines is given.

The merits of the book are, however, substantial. The style is good, the arrangement of the matter is excellent, and Mr. Roberts has a just sense of proportion and avoids the fault, which most historians of Canada commit, of giving undue space to the French as compared with the English period. It is striking testimony to the possibilities of the union of the two races in Canada that this story of a great international struggle is so told as to avoid any appeal to the prejudices either of the English or of the French. Mr. Roberts thinks that the Canadian people may reap benefit from their peculiar situation by ripening the good traits both of French and of English character. He is optimistic throughout. He can find it in his heart to think that Canada's slow growth in population is a, not even disguised, blessing (p. 408), and some of his sentences read like Fourth of July declamation: "The figure of our destiny looms splendid and mysterious before us" (p. 437). "The imperial heritage to which Canada thus fell heir is one so vast that nations might be carved from it and the loss scarcely noticed" (p. 361). Canada does not need this turgid rhetoric. She is moving towards a great future, and the best thing that her literary sons can do for her is to make clear the sober historical conditions which have resulted in her present status.

The already famous papyrus fragment recently discovered at Oxyrhynchus, 120 miles south of Cairo, has been edited by the discoverers, Messrs. Grenfell and Hunt, late Fellows of the University of Oxford, under the title *Λόγια Ἰησοῦ, Sayings of Our Lord* (London, Henry Frowde, pp. 20). From the fact that the papyri found in its immediate vicinity belong to the second and third centuries, from the "characteristically Roman aspect" of the handwriting, from the presence of contractions usually found in Biblical MSS., and from the fact that the papyrus was in book-form, not roll-form, the editors assign it to the period 150-300 A. D. We are greatly indebted to them for the speed with which they have given the text of the fragment to the public; but it is probably too early to attempt a definite solution of the historical questions which it raises—we must wait for the discovery of other portions of the papyrus. Of the eight Logia fragments of which are discernible, six are wholly or in great part legible: the first is identical with Luke vi. 42; the second is legalistic ("except ye keep the Sabbath") and perhaps Gnostic ("except ye fast to the world"—but the Greek construction of this phrase is impossible); the third ("I found all men drunken," etc.) is in tone unlike anything in the New Testament; the fifth ("raise the stone and there thou shalt find me," etc.) appears to have a Gnostic tinge; the sixth is, in its first half, substantially identical with Luke iv. 24; the