

makes a statement for which he does not cite an accepted authority. One exception may be noted. More authority than a mere statement in a volume of reminiscences seems to be necessary to justify the resurrection of a rumor current in 1854, that Elgin, who was governor-general at that time paid off £80,000 of mortgages on his Scottish estates out of the proceeds of speculations which he had shared with Francis Hincks, who was minister of finance in the Hincks-Morin administration of 1851-1854.

EDWARD PORRITT.

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

Recollections of Sixty Years. By SIR CHARLES TUPPER. New York, Funk and Wagnalls Company, 1914.—vii, 414 pp.

This volume contains eight photographs of the author—a fact that at once indicates the outstanding characteristic of the “*Recollections*.” It is frankly and aboundingly egoistical. It is, moreover, quite as frankly partisan. And it is almost as frankly pagan. For the stories of intrigue and political scandal are told as though they were things that did not matter, as though ethical standards the world over count for as little as they seem to have counted at Ottawa during the thirty-four or thirty-five years in which Sir Charles Tupper was active in Dominion politics. None the less, and largely because of these three characteristics, the “*Recollections*” is of more interest, and from some points of view of more value, than any other biography or autobiography of a Canadian statesman that has yet been published.

The book is valuable because of the light it throws on political conditions in Nova Scotia and the Maritime Provinces from the opening of Queen Victoria's reign to Confederation in 1867; because of its revelations of the circumstances attending the acceptance of Confederation in Nova Scotia and the collapse of the movement against it led by Joseph Howe; and because of the insight it gives into Dominion politics from 1867 until 1901, when Sir Charles Tupper retired from the leadership of what was then the Conservative opposition. One of the most informing chapters is that devoted to a lecture which Sir Charles delivered in 1860, on the “*Political Condition of British North America*.” As a description of conditions existing in the Provinces at that time this lecture is almost as interesting as the Earl of Durham's Report; and it would be difficult to name anything in print which describes better the conditions in the Maritime Provinces between 1840 and 1867.

As a contribution to the history of Confederation, the chief value of

the "Recollections" lies in the story of the methods by which Howe was induced to abandon the leadership of the popular movement in Nova Scotia against Confederation and to take service with Sir John A. Macdonald in the Dominion cabinet at Ottawa. Sir Charles Tupper was Macdonald's agent in this matter, and he tells the story of his success with Howe with evident satisfaction. After Confederation, in the period from 1870 to 1901, the interest of the book centers chiefly in what Sir Charles writes concerning the Canadian Pacific Railway scandal of 1872; the adoption of the National Policy by Macdonald and the Conservatives in 1879; the building of the Canadian Pacific in the years from 1880 to 1886; the Langevin scandal of 1891; the trouble over the Manitoba school question between 1893 and 1896; the defeat of the Conservatives in 1896; and the conversion of the Liberal party at Ottawa to protection and the National Policy as evidenced by the tariff revision of 1897.

The author is sometimes incorrect in his dates, as for instance when writing of the beginning of the bounty policy in 1883, and again when dealing with Sir Mackenzie Bowell's attitude on the Manitoba school question during his premiership in 1894-95. Sometimes he does not tell the whole story. For instance when he is describing his part in committing the Dominion to the policy of bounties for the iron and steel industry—a policy that has cost Canada \$17,000,000—he makes no mention of the motive for this extension of the National Policy, which was that an iron company with a furnace at Londonderry, Nova Scotia, then the only coke furnace in the Dominion, was in the hands of a receiver. Or again when he is complaining that the Earl of Aberdeen, governor-general at Ottawa, "in defiance of constitutional procedure," withheld his assent from the contract for a fast line of steamers between Great Britain and the Dominion, he makes no mention of the facts that the Parliament had been continued longer than the usual term, and that the Conservative government was notoriously exhausted and discredited, and was already in sight of the defeat at the polls that came in June, 1896.

Despite these drawbacks, that are easily overlooked in the case of a man of ninety-two who is dictating his Reminiscences, the book is of much value as a contribution to the history of the British North American Provinces and of the Dominion, if for no other reason, than that it carries the aroma of politics at Ottawa in the period during which Macdonald was supreme.

EDWARD PORRITT.

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

A History of University Reform from 1800 to the Present Time with Suggestions towards a Complete Scheme for the University of Cambridge. By A. I. TILLYARD. Cambridge, W. Heffer and Sons, Limited., 1913.—xvi, 392 pp.

It is almost impossible to treat the subject of the older English universities without some review of the manner in which they came into existence. Hence, although Mr. Tillyard gives the date 1800 as the beginning of his history of University Reform, he gives in his introductory chapter a brief sketch of the history and purposes of the universities before the foundation of the colleges; of the origin of the collegiate system; and of the gradual supplanting, so far as wealth, power and importance are concerned, of the universities by the colleges. This reversal of the original relations, Mr. Tillyard regards as a natural growth, dating from the foundation of the first colleges—Merton at Oxford in 1270, and Peterhouse at Cambridge in 1284. It was not until after the Reformation, however, that the colleges were entrenched in their position of advantage by law. The statutes passed under Queen Elizabeth, James I and Charles I for the purpose of securing the adhesion of the universities to the new state church, subverted the constitution of the university, and vested the authority in the Board of Heads of Houses. The colleges practically became the university, absorbing the educational and literary functions of the older institution, without its advantage of unity. All students had to become members of a college, and between 1650 and 1800, as a result of public indifference and of an evil constitution, Oxford and Cambridge lost all their older prestige and became almost useless as organs of national education. To quote Mr. Tillyard:

A period of lethargy set in, during which Oxford fell to almost incredible depths. The old examination system had become obsolete, and nothing had been put in its place. Wenedorn, who traveled through England before 1788, gives an amusing account of what he saw. The Presiding Examiner, the Respondent or candidate for a degree, and the three Opponents came into the schools, and amid profound silence passed the statutory time in the study of a novel or other entertaining work. Oxford in fact gave its degrees without any examination to all who had paid their fees and kept the required number of terms. Cambridge was saved from falling quite so low by the influence of Sir Isaac Newton and his successors. It required a certain amount of mathematics before granting a degree.

This low point was reached in the eighteenth century, and it is the task of Mr. Tillyard to show how far the universities have now either