

NEW BOOKS

THE SPELL OF FRENCH CANADA. By Frank Oliver Call, M. A.
L. C. Page & Company. Boston. 1926.

French Canada is a subject of special and peculiar interest at the present time. It lies between the Maritime Provinces and the more western portions of the Dominion, and to a large extent it has remained untouched by movements that have considerably influenced the rest of Canada. To a far greater extent than other parts of this wide continent it retains customs, practices and traditions that prevailed in the earlier days of our history, many of which had their origin in mediaeval times. Over this section of Canada there lies a glamour of history and romance, like the purple haze that bathes its Laurentian hills, and herein we meet distinct traces of life as it was lived during the days of the old French period. Prof. Call has caught the type as Prof. Colby pictures it in his *Canadian Types of the Old Regime*, and he shows us to what extent that type persists to-day.

An English writer who would portray something of the spell and charm of French Canada attempts a difficult task. The late Dr. William Henry Drummond did much to acquaint us with the *habitant*, but, unfortunately, many of his readers missed the very soul of his poems because of the use he made of the *habitant's* broken English. To some his work was humorous rather than serious, while French Canadians, with that sensitiveness so characteristic of them, resented anything that might seem to hold them up to ridicule. Prof. Call, in the 362 pages that make up the 20 chapters of his book, has given us a delightfully clear and most sympathetic picture of French Canada to-day. The historical background is sketched in by the master hand of a literary artist, and there is just sufficient detail of present-day social, industrial and religious life to make an altogether complete and charming picture. The author had already manifested his qualifications for such work in his volume of sonnets on French Canada entitled *Blue Homespun*, which won a prize awarded by the Quebec government. He is a native of the province of Quebec, and declares that "the sterling qualities of the French Canadian are destined to be an important factor in the future well-being of Canada". He is not only a master of the French language, but is also saturated with the very spirit of French-Canadian life,—its repose and charm, its quiet contentment and religious fervour, its love of beauty and its highly developed imaginative qualities. In his opinion Canadians, who would know their own country, must be bi-lingual. "The soul of Canada is a dual personality, and must remain only half revealed to those who know only one language."

As one reads this most interesting book, one feels as on a personally conducted journey and as listening to a thoroughly delightful *raconteur*. From the top of Mount St. Hilare one surveys the historic Richelieu

Valley, and descends to converse with the *habitants* in their cottages. Everywhere Prof. Call is manifestly at home, whether discussing peonies with Father Leopold in the Monastery Garden at Oka, talking with Louis Hémon's model of Maria Chapdelaine and her family in the Péribonka country, listening to the weird legends of a *conteur*, discussing folk songs with M. Barbeau or watching a Corpus Christi procession. Prof. Call glorifies everything he points out, and his touch is so light and graceful that he does full justice to a subject which can be adequately treated only by one whose heart is warm with sympathy and affection. The French Canadian is essentially gentle, courteous, sensitive and proud withal. He is a lover of music, flowers, the laughter of children and the sound of the church-going bell. Patient, industrious, contented, thrifty and quite conservative, he stands in our national life as a bulwark against radicalism. The spell of French Canada consists to no small extent in the way there has been kept alive therein an Old World sense of romance and of the supernatural. Prof. Call's book is an excellent guide to one who wishes to know just how ancient and modern blend in unique Quebec and busy Montreal. Every page of the chapters dealing with these cities is replete with the entrancing story of their past.

Even in a brief notice of this book, mention must be made of the beautiful poetry that adorns many of its pages, mostly from the pen of the gifted author. Prof. Call is one of Canada's sweetest and truest poets. He established his reputation in such volumes of verse as *In a Belgian Garden*, *Acanthus and Wild Grape*, and the volume of sonnets already mentioned. He draws upon this rich storehouse for the metrical version of the Legend of the Chambly Rapids, and adds materially to his reputation in poetry by the translations here given of French folk songs, many of which are polished gems. His prose style is smooth, graphic and interesting, while occasionally one comes to paragraphs that attain to rare lyric beauty.

The book is beautifully made, and profusely illustrated by fifty-two full page plates in colour and duograde, mostly from photographs taken by the author. We are indebted to Prof. Call, who is Professor of Modern Languages at the University of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, Que., for a most timely work on a subject of outstanding interest in this great Dominion. No one who wishes to understand French Canada can afford to miss the help that is available in this volume, and no one who appreciates what is beautiful in modern literature should deprive himself of the real pleasure that is in store for him as he reads this entrancing and illuminating book.

A. H. M.

THE LETTERS OF SIR WALTER RALEIGH. Edited by Lady Raleigh.
2 Vols. The Macmillan Company. 1926.

A man of vivid personality, often original in his opinions and always unconventional in his expression of them, with numerous prejudices of his own and scant patience for those of other people, the writer of these letters was in many ways notable. No don was

ever less donnish, no student of literature was ever less of a Dry-as-dust. There was an adventurous bent in his character which was not unlike that of his great Elizabethan namesake, and life for this Oxford Professor was always something greater than books. Hence the freshness and vitality that give a charm to these volumes.

Raleigh's first official position was that of teacher in a Mohamadan College in India, where the experience was full of interest to him. Later he taught successively at Owens College, Manchester; University College, Liverpool; Glasgow University; and finally he was appointed to the newly founded chair of English Literature at Oxford. His writings were numerous, and if it cannot be said that they display profound scholarship or make any contribution of first-rate importance to literary criticism, yet his vivacity and, where his prejudices did not blind him, a sort of clear-headed intelligence make his essays pleasant reading. As a lecturer he was eminently breezy and vigorous, and it is easily understood how keenly he was enjoyed by students accustomed only to more "cut and dried" pedagogical methods. In his private correspondence he gives full play to the exuberance, and even the dogmatism, of his judgments. Of Macaulay he disposes as follows:—"Macaulay—God's Ape—he stinks in my nostrils. Cheap, vain, poor, noisy, blind." Meredith "writes like a conceited jackanapes." Charlotte Brontë in *Shirley* is "half-baked and unreal and ignorant." He gives the preference to Mrs. Oliphant over George Eliot. In the fervour of war-time patriotism, he looks forward to the German language becoming a "mere dialect", and to Goethe being relegated to the position of Dunbar in English literature. But if his opinions sometimes come perilously near to the absurd, at least he never sinks into the torpor of pedantry. After all, in the case of a teacher, *l'elan vital* covers a multitude of sins.

E. R.

NESTORIUS. THE BAZAAR OF HERACLEIDES. Newly translated from the Syriac, and edited with an Introduction, Notes and Appendices. By G. R. Driver, M.A., and Leonard Hodgson, M.A., Fellows of Magdalen College, Oxford. Clarendon Press, Oxford. 1925.

St. Gregory, bishop of the little city of Nyssa in the fourth century A.D., thus describes the great metropolitan city of Constantinople:

This city is full of mechanics and slaves who are all professed theologians, and preach in the shops and the streets. Ask one of them to change a coin; he will tell you wherein the Son and the Father differ. Enquire the price of a loaf; you will be told that the Son is inferior to the Father. Call for your bath; the answer is that the Son was made out of nothing.

Alexandria was much the same, and in the fifth century there arose a most savage and un-Christian strife between the two rival cities on the question of the two natures of our Lord. The imperial authorities were involved, of course, in this theological warfare, with the most unlovely results. Bribery, violence, hatred and treachery all played a part in the fratricidal discord, and it seems far from wonderful that Mohammed—a little later—was not attracted by the kind of

Christianity he found in the East. The great Creeds were, after all, only majority decisions of the great Councils, and were secured often amid scenes of violence and disorder.

Of all these disputes and wranglings the most painful was the "Nestorian" controversy. Nestorius of Antioch became Patriarch of Constantinople in 428 A.D., and immediately became involved in a dispute with the bishops of Alexandria and Rome on the inner constitution of the Person of Christ. The Church in the whole empire was convulsed by this furious controversy, to settle which the emperor Theodosius called a Council at Ephesus in 431. Amid scenes of great turbulence, Nestorius was condemned, deposed and excommunicated by the western bishops, and his condemnation was afterwards sustained by the emperor. He became an exile, and was driven hither and thither for twenty years until his death. His followers were active in many sections of the East, and to this day there are Nestorian Christian churches in Persia, Mesopotamia and India.

The exiled ecclesiastic did not suffer in silence. Not many did, in those days. He defended himself vigorously, and accused his opponents of gaining their point by bribery and violence,—an accusation well founded in fact. Most of his writings have been lost, but a few are extant, and the most notable is the *Treatise of Heraclides* which is now presented to English readers in a translation made from the one extant mutilated Syrian manuscript, preserved at Kotchones in Kurdistan. The "Treatise" (for the word "Bazaar" is due to a wrong Syriac rendering of the original Greek) gives much information as to the teaching of Nestorius and the facts of his later life. "He claims to show, first, that his own condemnation at Ephesus was unjust, and, secondly, that his vindication of Flavian (451 A. D.), who had suffered from the same causes and for the same faith as himself, was the vindication of all that he had stood for. He claims that he never had a fair hearing, but was condemned untried for defending the faith which was ultimately accepted by the Church." How many other condemned heretics could say the same!

What Nestorius was actually contending for was the real humanity of Christ. Cyril of Alexandria, apart from his jealousy and unscrupulous ambition, was concerned for our Lord's divinity. Nestorius condemned the term "Mother of God"; Cyril defended it. Out of it all, appears the destruction of real religion through theological wrangling, and the futility of settling truth by majority votes.

The translators in an Appendix seem to sympathize with Cyril. Most readers will come down on the other side. But the publication of this treatise will be of great assistance to those who are interested in following the almost interminable Christological debate of the fifth and sixth centuries.

H. A. K.

THE ROMANTIC DIPLOMAT. Talleyrand, Metternich and Chateaubriand. By Maurice Paleologue. Translated by Arthur Chambers. Hutchinson & Co. London.

The author of this brilliant and entertaining book was French ambassador at St. Petersburg for the period preceding the Russian

Revolution, and by his *Memoirs* and his *Tragic Romance of Emperor Alexander the Second* he is already favourably known to English readers. The word "Romantic" is somewhat ambiguous, and we might hesitate to apply it to either Talleyrand or Metternich, but this does not affect the value of these amusing and informative biographical sketches. That singular and sinister figure of Talleyrand,—his wonderful gift of political foresight, and his absolute shamelessness and treachery,—are depicted with masterly skill. The portrait of Metternich is equally striking, though some readers might wish that more prominence had been given to his political intrigues and less to those of an amorous kind. We recognize the Gallic point of view when the author says of the latter, "As to his extra-conjugal attachments, these were numberless and always in the best society, always in most refined taste." Details are given of no fewer than eleven of the great Austrian Minister's love affairs! Chateaubriand was a true "Romantic", but he is a less fascinating subject for a biographer; and it is in the sphere of literature rather than that of diplomacy that he has his importance. Nor is his character an attractive one; his talents were considerable, but his ambition was selfish and his vanity over-weening. All three narratives are enlivened with anecdotes which throw light upon the social and political life of the early decades of the nineteenth century. The illustrations are numerous and good.

E. R.

THE HANDBOOK AND DIRECTORY OF ADULT EDUCATION. London.
H. F. W. Deane and Sons.

"This book," to quote from the preface, "is meant for those who want to know more about the main facts relating to Adult Education in England . . . a movement that has become so wide-spread that no citizen can afford to be ignorant of its activities." The work has been compiled under the auspices of the British Institute of Adult Education, and covers all serious adult teaching in England apart from technical and vocational instruction, which have been omitted pending the issue of reports on enquiries now being made into the relationship between technical colleges and adult schools. There is a short and very compact section of geographical statistics that will not interest the average Canadian educator, except as a proof of the enormous extent and efficient organization of the work in the United Kingdom. Besides this, the book should be a source of information and encouragement far greater than its title might suggest. Adult Education in England, as in many countries in Europe, has a meaning and a purpose that seem hardly to be known in at least this section of Canada.

University extension work here seems usually to imply one of three things: vocational training, correspondence courses, and "popular" community lectures. These last, the only courses to reach the people as a whole, are often of doubtful value as education; they provide a great deal of jam to a very small pill, and belong less to the university than to the chatauqua. Adult Education in England,

which developed from small beginnings largely through the Workers' Educational Association, has attained such importance that it formed the subject of a large special Report issued in 1919 by the Ministry of Reconstruction; later reports have been issued on such subjects as Music, Drama in Adult Education, the Education of Women, and Adult Education in Rural Areas. [All of these reports may be obtained at small cost from H. M. Stationery Office]. Most towns and several very small and remote communities have some form of adult teaching. Fourteen kinds of organized instruction, varying from university tutorial classes to week-end lecture schools, are mentioned in the Report, and exact information is given as to the organization in universities and voluntary associations that are devoting part or all of their energies to the work.

Of the work itself, prosecuted in so many diverse forms, one can note here only briefly and generally that it is intended primarily for the student who approaches it in a serious academic spirit; that it offers definite courses which demand intensive study and often a great deal of preliminary reading; that a great many classes are tutorial and provide for frequent reports and discussions: it is, in short, university extension work in the proper sense of the term. It may be added that the credit for this great development of Adult Education belongs primarily to one enthusiast, Albert Mansbridge, founder of the Workers' Educational Association, Chairman of the British Institute of Adult Education, as well as of the more important though less known international co-ordinating body, the World Association for Adult Education, and founder of local and special organizations which the limits of space preclude from mention. Dr. Mansbridge is a man for whom nothing in Adult Education seems too great or too small, and his services have been recognized by the award of honorary degrees from the two great English universities, both of which are directly and practically interested in the scheme that he has done so much to establish. This unpretentious record of the work in England should be of assistance to all who are attempting similar work here under the splendid stimulus that is being offered by the National Council of Education.

C. L. BENNET.

CANADIAN POETS. Edited by John W. Garvin, B. A. McClelland & Stewart. Toronto.

The new and revised edition of this well-known anthology should receive a warm welcome. It gives fairly adequate representation to those Canadian poets whose reputation is already well-established, while it will bring to the notice of that part of the public which is interested in literature the work of not a few writers who have not yet fully won the recognition they deserve. Of course no anthology will ever wholly satisfy every reader. To the present reviewer it seems that this collection would have had greater value if the standard for admission had been higher,—some of the verse in it attaining only that prettiness which is so different from real beauty. None the less, there is garnered in this large and handsome volume enough

good grain to make us willing to condone the presence of a certain amount of chaff. There is promise for the future in the character of the writing of the younger poets, more attention being given by them to technical excellence, and less dependence being placed upon sentimental themes than has been the case in the past. Among these new-comers into the field of song we find here Hilda Mary Hooke, whose poem "The King's Dance" is a fine piece of blank verse; Frank Oliver Call, who interprets the life of the Quebec *habitant* with sympathy and imaginative insight; and Frances Beatrice Taylor, whose "Wayfaring Fools" is a good example of her sensitive and refined diction. The specimens of Mrs. Louise Morey's work are sufficiently characteristic to stimulate interest in the poetry of this brilliant and original writer. Of the poets who have been before the public for a considerable time, we find Charles G. D. Roberts represented by thirteen poems, including his beautiful "Unknown City", but none of his sonnets are given,—and surely "Ave", his fine tribute to the genius of Shelley, should not have been omitted. Of Dr. Archibald MacMechan's work we are offered two ballads,—both good, but in his case also specimens of the excellent work he has done as a sonneteer might well have been included. Only six of Bliss Carman's poems appear, and the selection does not seem altogether satisfactory. Among other writers of special interest may be mentioned Beatrice Redpath, E. J. Pratt and Constance Lindsay Skinner. Portraits, biographical sketches and critical appreciations add to the interest and usefulness of a volume which should certainly find a place in every Canadian library.

E. R.

THE SCOTTISH PRESBYTERIAN POLITY. A study of its origins in the sixteenth century. By Janet S. MacGregor, M.A., B.Ed., Ph.D., Lecturer in History in the University of Birmingham. Oliver and Boyd.

The scope of this book, as indicated by its sub-title, is confined almost altogether to a problem of constitutional history. Its aim is "to discover what sources there were, other than the New Testament, whence the Scottish Reformers drew their ideas in constructing the constitution of their Church."

To this end the author reviews first the contributions made by Lollardism and the early reforming agitations. Here the "parity of believers" was the chief. She next discusses the influences bearing upon Knox and others, resulting in the *First Book of Discipline* of 1560. Next she indicates the importance of Andrew Melville, together with the changes and new features leading up to the *Second Book of Discipline* of 1592. Finally she comes to the conclusion that the Scottish reformed polity was not just a derivative from that of the Genevan Church of Calvin, but was highly composite in its origin. While the influence of Geneva is freely to be admitted, several of its chief characteristics are to be traced to the French Reformed Church, and to the foreign Churches of d'Alasco and of Pullain in England. In particular, "From France came the framework of the Scottish system

of Church Courts. From France and from d'Alasco's London polity came the distinctive principle that the three kinds of office-bearers common to all Presbyterian churches, as representing the general body of congregational members, were to exercise, in and through the ecclesiastical courts, the legislative, administrative and judicial functions of the Church as a corporate body."

Written primarily as a thesis for the Ph. D. degree of Edinburgh University, this study makes special appeal to the student of ecclesiastical constitutional history. The general reader will search it in vain for reference to Presbyterian problems of a more modern type. At the same time, Dr. MacGregor has made a real contribution in showing that the polity of Scottish Presbyterianism rests on a much wider basis than has hitherto been generally supposed. She confines herself strictly to her theme. In setting forth her arguments lucidly, and drawing her conclusions concisely, she has accomplished her task well. The book is of special interest to Canadians, in that it is the work of the daughter of the late Dr. J. G. MacGregor, who before appointment to the Chair of Physics in Edinburgh was so well known and so highly esteemed in Halifax as Professor of Physics in Dalhousie.

C. M. KERR.