

The author, Samuel Black, was a Scot who came to Canada in 1802 as a clerk in the X. Y. Company, which two years later joined forces with the North West Company. From 1805 to 1821 he served the latter company, chiefly in the Athabaska district; and in competition with Hudson's Bay Company officials for the Indian trade earned an unenviable reputation for trickery and ruthlessness. In 1821, when the North West Company's separate existence ceased, his associates presented him with a ring inscribed, "To the most worthy of the worthy Northwesters."

With such a reputation it is not surprising that there was some delay in fitting him into the new organization; but in 1823, apparently after he had convinced the Board of the Hudson's Bay Company that one who had acted honestly and zealously against them could act as honestly and zealously for them under different circumstances, he was made a Chief Trader—the appointment being made retroactive to June 1, 1821. A year later, when Governor Simpson, who was still suspicious of Black, had to choose the leader of a very difficult undertaking, he found not only that Black was capable of such a transfer of loyalty and zeal but also that he was the only man available with the necessary courage and determination to take and keep command.

The purpose of the expedition was to explore the Finlay River area, or "what is now the Cassiar district of British Columbia," with a view to discovering new Indian tribes and fur-bearing regions to supplement the diminishing supplies from the long-exploited Athabaska region; and although the results of Black's exploration were largely negative in this respect, since he found the country wild and barren, saw few Indians and not enough of beaver to justify setting up an establishment there, his journal of the expedition may yet prove of value to those who seek to open up that region in future; for Black was an educated Scot, interested in geography and geology, with considerable literary ability and, while admittedly inclined to prolixity, allowed few things to escape his observation or to pass without comment. His journal therefore gives a detailed account of the country through which he passed, of his day by day progress by canoe and portage in all kinds of weather, of the game and potential food supply, and of the Indians whom he met. His description of these Indians is particularly valuable as they were still in the stone age of culture; but his "prolixity" makes it impossible to give any illustrations of his style in this brief review.

Of Black's later career and violent death, of his two "wives" and seven children, and of the squabble amongst the heirs, in Canada and Scotland, of his considerable estate, Mr. Patterson's introduction gives sufficient detail to show that ultimately the demands of retributive justice, if not of poetical, were satisfied.

D. C. H.

MARITAIN ON THE NATURE OF MAN IN A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY. By NORAH WILLIS MICHENER, Ph.D. Editions "L'Eclair," Hull. 1955. Pp. XIII, 149, front. \$4.25.

In the Introduction (P. 2), Dr. Michener states, "The present book is an attempt to set forth Maritain's views on the nature of man, which are based on his metaphysical theory of the person, as well as his description of the characteristics of the society in which man should live."

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Dr. Michener has succeeded in her task quite admirably. She begins with a sketch of the biographical background which helped to shape Maritain's views. A chapter follows on the relationship of Maritain to Bergson and their philosophical differences, especially on the question of the human intellect. For Maritain, the human intellect is man's distinguishing mark. It is because man is a rational being, made by God and destined for God, that man has special dignity as a person and can lay claim to unique rights. In subsequent chapters, Dr. Michener proceeds to develop Maritain's views under the headings of the Person as Rational, as Free, as Social. Among the problems treated are the natural law, free will, good and evil, relation of church and state, and authority. Maritain's philosophy of the person "finds its full development or culmination in the delineation of a philosophy for a democratic society which is to be organic, pluralist, and theocentric." (p. 111).

In the limited space of this small book, Dr. Michener can give little more than a summary exposition of the main texts of Maritain's political philosophy. Her concern is presentation rather than demonstration. She writes simply and sympathetically. The result is an excellent introduction to Maritain's theories.

As the work of a Canadian author and publisher, the book deserves special welcome. It is a carefully documented study. An appendix provides a helpful bibliography of Maritain's writings. There are separate indices of proper names and of subjects. The frequent use of French quotations presupposes in the reader some knowledge of that language.

In this age of conflicting ideologies, the importance of Dr. Michener's work needs no elaboration. The nature of man is a fundamental question. Only the true answer can lay a solid basis for man's dignity, his rights and freedoms. The same answer will be the backbone of a sound social and political philosophy. It will shape and determine moral and educational philosophy as well. Thus we can join Dr. Michener in her hope that all "who are concerned to find a satisfactory philosophy for democracy may yet find much of the work—especially those chapters on the person—both accessible and rewarding."

WILLIAM A. STEWART, S.J.

FOUNDATIONS OF CANADIAN NATIONHOOD. By CHESTER MARTIN, Toronto: Toronto University Press. 1955. Pp. XX, 554. \$7.50.

This book by an eminent Canadian Historian, recalls the day, twenty-five years ago when the reviewer, as a Freshman Professor of History, added to his "Hope" Library a copy of Professor Martin's *Empire and Commonwealth*. The impressions gained from reading the book have remained bright throughout the years. Here was a thoroughly competent historian and a master craftsman who presented his material in a lofty, vigorous, and at times almost pompous prose.

Foundations of Canadian Nationhood is a broader and deeper study than Dr. Martin's earlier work, but it has many of the same characteristics. It has the same diligent research, and is the mature work of a man who has given a lifetime to study, teaching and reflection. It is not a factual or narrative history, but an inspirational and thought-



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provoking analysis of the growth of Canadian nationhood. It seems to say to the prospective reader, "You cannot appreciate me unless you know your Canadian history. It is to the informed I would speak. To him I offer inspiration, interpretation, and appreciation." The style is an almost flawless parade of carefully chosen words. Such sentences as "A few 'Bees on Flowers alighting' ceased their hum, but Howe's first foray in the House, The Twelve Resolutions, proved a turning point in his career"; and "Critics less shrewd than Elgin were already beginning to speculate upon the inflexibility of written constitutions stereotyped into rigidity by fixed elections", are but two examples of the thoughts and figures of speech which may be found in the book in dazzling profusion. Even the frequent use of "as we shall see," and "as we have seen," which at times seems monotonous, serves a purpose in keeping the reader's mind alert to the subject under discussion.

The book is divided into four parts, each of which is concerned with a distinct period. *Survival* is a broad title for a description of the vicissitudes of British Colonial administration from the conquest of New France and the American Revolution to the Age of Durham, with particular attention to the policy that produced the Quebec Act. Self-Government covers much of the field that formed the basis of *Empire and Commonwealth*, the effort of the colonists to obtain control of their own affairs through the system known as responsible government. *British North American Union* contains much new and interpretive material, and to many will provide the chief justification for the book. It is a masterly exposition of the background and achievement of the Canadian Union of 1867. *Expansion* describes the growth of Canada from a Dominion to a Nation.

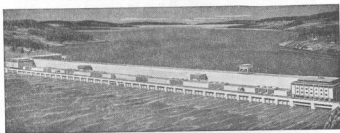
If the book has a weakness, it is that the author was so engrossed in the British system of parliamentary government that he failed to give due consideration to those other factors, racial, economic, and social, which helped to make the Canada of today. But even with these limitations, *Foundations of Canadian Nationhood* is a great book and a worthy contribution to the field of Canadian historiography. The format is excellent and there are few errors. One, however, should be noted. J. B. Uniacke was not the "Cumberland rebel" (p. 215) and R. J. Uniacke was not the son. (p. 216). They are listed correctly in the index.

RONALD S. LONGLEY.

BRIDGETOWN, NOVA SCOTIA: ITS HISTORY TO 1900. By ELIZABETH RUGGLES COWARD. Kentville Publishing Co., 1955.

It may seem strange to find a book with the title "Bridgetown, Nova Scotia" reviewed in this journal, and perhaps to explain why it is brought to the attention of readers of the *Dalhousie Review* will serve as sufficient commentary upon its worth. The town of Bridgetown in itself is of no great interest to most readers of histories but this book about this particular Nova Scotian town will prove of great interest to all readers who enjoy a good story well told. Any town has a history, but not every town has an historian of high literary ability, excellent judgment in selecting what is interesting and important, and the skill to hold the readers attention throughout. Bridgetown has in Mrs.

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Coward such an historian, and anyone who wishes to know something of the kind of life, endured and enjoyed by the early French, English and Loyalist settlers in the Annapolis valley will find a true and vivid account in her book. It is because this book is a model for historians of a local area, and because it succeeds in presenting in an impressive manner the ethos of an important period in the history of eastern Canada that it is worthy of special notice.

W. J. ARCHIBALD.

A NEW LOOK IN HISTORIOGRAPHY.

Papers from Europe bring us the announcement of a remarkable publication in the field of history-writing: a German work bearing the somewhat pretentious looking title of "Handbook of World History."¹

According to a brief survey in one of the best weekly papers published in Holland² it is a most remarkable standard work, to which about one hundred and fifty men of high scholarly repute have contributed in as many as fifteen different languages. A special staff has translated their contributions into German, and managed to achieve a perfectly balanced unity.

The authors' objectives are, among others, to "cause the visible to recede in favour of the abstract, and the own nation in favour of humanity as a whole, and also a better appreciation of the individual."

The reason why this new publication is drawing the attention of the educated world lies in the fact that it has an approach to history which is totally different from the traditional. Not only has the time-honoured subdivision into Ancient, Mediaeval and Modern History been dropped—this is no novelty, even in dealing with European history—but in the authors' system Europe has entirely lost the central position from which world history used to be looked at and discussed. Instead a number of "cultural periods" is being described and examined.

After a survey of modern astronomy and its achievements, the earth, life and development in general, prehistoric times and early civilizations are discussed: Mesopotamia, Egypt, and (*at the same level*) India, China, America. Nomad peoples are dealt with in separate chapters: Scythians and Huns, Magyars and Turks, a chapter which carries us well into the 18th century.

The fourth chapter gives the earliest history of Europe: the peoples of the Indo-European tongues: Thracians, Illyrians, Celts, Germans and Slavs. Then Greece and Rome are allotted a place, then the Buddhist world, *on a perfectly equal footing with the rest*. The subject "Chins" brings us into the 20th century.

Now comes a most characteristic chapter "The Messianic Period," marking the 6th century B.C. as exceptionally important. Side by side are discussed Lao-Tse and Confucius in China, Buddha in India, Zarathustra in Iran, Isaías in Israel. the Pythagoreans in Greece. The "Messianic" period of religious reform attains its last and most profound expression in Christianity.

The book (only Vol. I has left the press) is beautifully illustrated, contains a great many colour-plates and maps, and is handy for quick reference. "A variegated picture of Man in his gradual way upwards." In words like these the Dutch reviewer renders his impressions of it.

1. Alexander Randa: *Handbuch der Weltgeschichte, I. Ein Totalbild der Menschheit.* (Verl. Otto Walter, Ofen u. Freiburg im Breisgau).
2. Elseviers Weckblad. Sat. Dec. 3, 1955.

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It is to be wished that a proper review, of a more personal and critical character than this announcement, will soon appear in the Canadian press. This undoubtedly most interesting work deserves not to remain unnoticed.

H. VAN GINKEL.

THE MYTH OF SISYPHUS AND OTHER ESSAYS. By ALBERT CAMUS. New York: ALFRED A. KNOPF: 1955. Translated from the French by JUSTIN O'BRIEN. Pp. 212.

Its opening and major essay gives this book its title. Recounting the Greek myth, Albert Camus says: "The Gods had condemned Sisyphus to ceaselessly rolling a rock to the top of a mountain, whence the stone would fall back of its own weight. They had thought with some reason that there is no more dreadful punishment than futile and hopeless labor."

The myth is an image of man's estate in this century, Camus says, and his essay attempts to answer the question, is this life of futility and hopelessness worth living?

Avoiding metaphysical propositions of the "All life is X" order, Camus answers his question by means of a paradox to which he gives the name "the Absurd."

The world is dense and foreign, and there is a longing for clarity about the world in the human heart never to be satisfied. This is the Absurd: the impossible relationship to the world in which man stands, which is yet the only thing that binds him to the world.

But to the absurd man, this constitutes a challenge: his courage commands that he live without appeal (to God, or to any kind of deliverance in the future—there is no God, there is no future), and his reason commands that he live within the limits of the given, of life as he finds it. There is meaning to his life since he is indifferent to the future and has a passionate desire to use up everything that is given. Sisyphus is happy with his rock; whether it stays at the top or rolls down is beyond his limits. It is what he has.

Not everyone will be satisfied that the absurd life is for him worth living, although the shorter essays in the book go a long way towards making it seem so.

Camus' obvious debt to several writers from Kierkegaard to Kafka is made apparent through passages in which he comments brilliantly upon them. These taken by themselves make the book worth reading, but it is otherwise significant as the philosophical and aesthetical creed of an important literary artist.

GEOFFREY B. PAYZANT.

MAN'S EMERGING MIND. MAN'S PROGRESS THROUGH TIME—TREES, ICE, FLOOD, ATOMS AND THE UNIVERSE. By N. J. BERRILL. Dodd, Mead & Company, Toronto. 1955. Pp. 308. \$4.50.

In an age of science fiction the science travelogue is to be expected. The book-jacket of *Man's Emerging Mind* invites us to take Professor Berrill as our guide to the marvels of evolution down the ages, to watch the brain of men rushing to its present capacity and be dazzled as



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millenia zip by. Some will find this dishing up of instruction in the guise of easy entertainment distasteful, but Dr. Berrill certainly does the job uncommonly well.

A practitioner of "the older and more leisured form of science no longer fashionable," he not only tells his story with infectious enthusiasm. He also draws the moral which he believes man's history and the study of science teach alike and which is perhaps best summed up as *reverence for life*. "When efficiency is less a fetish, when to be alive signifies more than getting from here to there, when idleness is no longer boredom but opportunity, when there is time for listening, when cornflowers and poppies belong in the wheat, only then will we know that we are re-entering our heritage." Although *Man's Emerging Mind* succeeds in doing what it sets out to do, its author's humane philosophy of life is probably the best thing about it.

K. M. HAMILTON.

JOHN PATTERSON, THE FOUNDER OF PICTOU TOWN. By his grandson, FRANK H. PATTERSON, Q.C. Truro Printing & Publishing Co. Ltd., Truro. 110 pp. 1955.

This is a book that should be read by every Pietonian, by every descendant of a Pietonian, by all who have Scottish blood in their veins, as well as by those young and old who are interested in the Pioneer Period of Nova Scotia.

John Patterson came on the "Hector" to Pictou on September 15, 1773, where he died in 1808. To quote the author, he was "the largest land owner in Pictou, a builder of houses, jails, bridges and mills, an unlearned, non-commissioned magistrate, a successful merchant and trader, and an honest upright man." Besides all this he was a staunch member of the Antiburgher group of the Secession Church of Scotland, became a Deacon in Dr. Thomas McCulloch's church in Pictou, was associated with his early efforts in education, but died in 1808 before these had borne substantial fruit.

Deacon Patterson secured land and deliberately set about the business of starting a town. There never seems to have been a shadow of doubt in his mind that he would succeed. He cleared land of virgin forest, built a house, a store, and a wharf for himself. Then systematically he surveyed his land for streets and building lots. Many of these lots he sold; on others he built homes and sold them together. All this may sound dull in today's setting, but placed in the last decade of the eighteenth century in the midst of a beautiful wilderness it commands interest and, if your background is right—excitement.

The author has made, in this small volume, a substantial contribution to the history of Nova Scotia. As history it is objective and authentic; as a literary achievement it is first class. If you are acquainted with Pictou it will make you walk its old streets again. You will stand on the hilltop where John Patterson built his house and gaze at the panorama of water, farmland and distant hills. And perhaps, if the day and the season are right, you will coast down Deacon's Hill, defy the perils of George Street and Water Street, and end up where Deacon John built his wharf in the long ago.

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- SASKATCHEWAN, THE HISTORY OF A PROVINCE. By J. F. C. WRIGHT. McClelland and Stewart. Toronto, Pp. 292. \$5.00.
- SASKATCHEWAN HARVEST. Edited by CARLYLE KING. McClelland and Stewart. Pp. 224. Paper bound \$1.00. Cloth \$2.50.

These two books are designed to introduce the reader to the history, past and present, of the Wheat Province. Mr. Wright's book is a handsome volume, with a fascinating jacket and well-chosen and well-executed illustrations running throughout the text. The history of Saskatchewan is tied up closely to that of the rest of the world; the fur trade, the development of the wheat industry, the exploitation of the still largely untapped resources of oil and gas are all related to the economic needs of a changing world. Saskatchewan's story, then, cannot be told without ample reference to the history of the rest of Canada and the part played by Canada in the history of the last hundred years or so.

Both Mr. Wright and Professor Simpson of the University of Saskatchewan, emphasize the power exerted by external forces in the development of Saskatchewan. Professor Simpson points out that the people of the province are representative of many races of whom "less than half are of British origin." The diversity of cultures and traditions, he says, has "created a society that is endlessly interesting." He closes his introduction with a tribute to the people, who have "learned to live with the weather", weather described as being "like a temperamental woman, (that) has caused both exhilaration and exasperation." "To an exceptional degree the people of Saskatchewan have shown buoyancy, courage, and a readiness to respond to an imaginative and generous idea." The book begins with a look at the geological history, pointing out that not all of Saskatchewan is "bald" prairie, that there are commercial forests and vast areas of mineral-rich lands in the northern part of the province. Then follow in chronological order the story of the plains Indians, the trade, the buffalo hunters, and then the first agricultural efforts that usually followed the railroads, although there were many areas opened up long before there was a railroad to serve them. The problem of the wheat farmers, who were faced by a virgin territory whose potentialities they sometimes were unable to see after several successive years of hail, frost and drought, occupy a large part of the book, including the story of the Wheat Pools, the depression (aggravated in Saskatchewan by concomitant dust storms and long years of unbelievable drought), the development of new strains of wheat to meet the demands of the area, and the development of new plant diseases to continue to try the invention of the scientists. There are a number of sections on the political history of a notoriously radical part of the country; the Riel fiasco of 1885, the drive for settlers, the eventual emergence of Saskatchewan as a province, the changes in government since 1905 are all treated at some length.

Jim Wright's book is a straightforward account of the relatively brief history of a province; Dr. Carlyle King's *Saskatchewan Harvest* has as a sub-title, *A Golden Jubilee Selection of Song and Story*. In his preface Professor King describes the nature and the scope of his anthology: "This is a book of writing about Saskatchewan; it is not a collection of 'Saskatchewan Writing'. For there are no 'Saskatchewan'



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writers; there are only writers. Here, then, I have brought together writers who have had experience of life in Saskatchewan and have recorded that experience as clearly, as honestly, and as intensely as they could. The nature and extent of each writer's connection with the Province I have indicated in my introductory notes; the poem, the story, or the narrative reflects the quality of his vision. By bringing these selections together and arranging them in a certain order, I have tried to show how the land and the people, the outer and the inner weather, of Saskatchewan have been represented in literature."

Among the thirty-three authors represented are E. J. Pratt, Duncan Campbell Scott, F. P. Grove, W. O. Mitchell, P. G. Hiebert, and Edward McCourt. The book is divided into five sections: Of Land and Sky, The First Inhabitants, The Sodbusters, People and Problems, and Our Story Tellers. It is a good arrangement of interesting material. In the immortal words of Sarah Binks, the Sweet Songstress of Saskatchewan, "I'm danged if it wasn't interesting."
A. R. B.

SIR EDMUND HEAD: A SCHOLARLY GOVERNOR. By D. G. G. KERR, with the assistance of J. A. GIBSON. University of Toronto Press, in co-operation with Mount Allison University, 1954.

This book is an effective and balanced survey of the career of Sir Edmund Head. Not quite the life: Head's private papers were burned in 1914 and the loss has left a distinct hiatus. We see the governor rather than the man: Dr. Kerr is too good an historian to fill in the portrait where only the sketches survive. Still, it means there is a good deal of Head that we are destined never to see; a pity, for he was an interesting man, and surely one of Canada's most intelligent governors.

The style of the book suits the matter; unobtrusive, it is the more effective for being so. Interesting yet without the distortion of bright colours, neat, and short, the book has sought and found its own chosen place.
PETER WAITE.

ANCIENT EDUCATION. By WILLIAM A. SMITH. Philosophical Library, New York. 1955. \$3.75.

This book is a straightforward, clearly written and compact account of educational practices, and to some extent of theories, in ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, Rome and Israel. This reviewer finds the sections on Greece and Rome (with the subject matter of which he is himself well acquainted) accurate, fair and well-balanced, and he deduces that the same is true of the other sections. The whole makes an excellent reference book for the facts of Ancient Education.

But the style is pedestrian and the writer betrays little enthusiasm for his subject, one suspects because he relies mainly on secondary, not primary authorities. Or perhaps it is that the juice of enthusiasm has been squeezed out in attempting to contain such a mass of material within 300 pages. But is a book of this kind of any value without some fermenting life-blood? Is there any gain, for example, in trying to compress an account of Greek literature into one short paragraph and reducing the zestful and vivid story-telling of Herodotus and the profound and bitter wisdom of Thucydides into the bald statement "The fifth century also witnessed the rise of prose in the form of history with Herodotus and Thucydides the chief figures."

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- A. W. YEATS, Associate Professor of English at Sam Houston State College, Huntsville, Texas, is completing a year's leave of absence granted for special duties at Dalhousie University. He is arranging the Kipling Collection given to Dalhousie by the late J. McG. Stewart, Q.C., and preparing for publication Dr. Stewart's bibliographical notebooks on that collection. Professor Yeats, who has been teaching for twenty years, has made a special study of Kipling and has arranged other important collections.
- EILEEN C. CUSHING is Research Assistant, Department of Canadian History, New Brunswick Museum, Saint John, and has contributed articles to several publications in the Maritime Provinces and New England.
- A. J. CROCKETT, of Hopewell, has spent most of his working life in Pictou County, including twenty-nine years as Juvenile Court Judge. Dr. Crockett has been a member of the Board of Governors and the Senate of Acadia University and has written numerous articles on social welfare problems and on local history.



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