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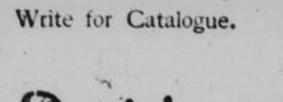
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#### Some Book Reviews

Public Men and Public Life in Canada," Recollections of Hon. James Young, Galt, William Briggs, Toronto.

Since the confederation of the prohave appeared few books more entitled to consideration by every Canadian than this volume from the pen of Mr. Young. A few words concerning the author may lend to the book an additional value to the average reader. In 1853 he became editor of the Dumfries Reformer, of Galt, and from that time onward was closely associated, though in a subordinate degree, with the great men and movements which he so graphically describes. He served as a member of parliament, as a member of the Ontario legislature and as treasurer of the province. He is also known as the author of history of Galt and Dumfries. He was for many years a close friend and dent admirer of the Hon. George Brown, and was also intimately asso ciated with the men who led the memorable struggle for responsible gov ernment in Upper Canada and with those who laid the foundations of our

great and glorious confederation. It will thus be seen that Mr. Young is well equipped for such a work he has undertaken. His style, though not abounding in highly polished sentences or rounded periods, is clear vigorous and well suited to the strenu ous times of which he writes. The au thor takes up the thread of his his tory at the dawn of the railroad in Canada. He follows it through early struggles for responsible ernment, the fierce conflict between Upper and Lower Canada, the formation and failure of the federal union, the famous coalition government, the un ion of Brown and Macdonald to carry confederation, the besetting dangers and the ultimate triumph of the glorious scheme and the birthday of the nation. All these topics are frought with great interest to every loyal Canadian, for they lie at th very foundation of our country. In dealing with these questions the au thor must deal with those men wh were so closely connected with them and with the growth and development of our country. And it is here that the real merit of the book lies. Mr. Young knew the men of whom writes, their records, their ambitions. their worth, the part they played in the great work of their day. His penpictures of them are picturesque, dis-

criminating and clear. They will be treasured when much of contemporaneous literature shall have been forgotten. He describes them as he sees them in the midst of their work, allotting to each his proper worth. And what grand old names they are-Brown, Macdonald, Mackenzie, Mc Nabb, Dorion, Cartier, Galt, McGee. Macdougall, Sandford Macdonald, Mo wat-names that shall live as long as the conferention continues to exist.

The book is an important contribution, to Canadian history and biography, and one that should find favored place in every library in the Dominion. Though the author somewhat of a politician himself, he has written his book on broad, rous lines. The party rancours and passions have died away with years, but the great work accomplishlucid style. The personal characteris- Bell' is a ghost story that succeeds Canada as a worker at the Toronto tics of the leading statesmen of his admirably in its mystery and suggesday are exceedingly well portraved. In | tion. referring to Sir John A. (then Attornev-General) Macdonald, the writer says: "Although he sometimes jokingly described himself as 'a rum 'un to look at but a good 'un to go,' he had an intellectual face, strongly New York horse shows. marked by acuteness, firmness and ver-

satility, and at this period the had just passed his forty-first birthday) a lock of dark hair fell over his forehead a la Disraeli, giving him an un- Presbyterian church takes place next artistically papered and prettily furloubted resemblance to that emment

Messrs. Brown and Macdonald, Mr. Fox of Canadian public life." Con-

not unevenly matched. Mr. Brown was powerful in body, powerful in debate in parliamentary discussions, and which was still more powerful on the country rostrum. He naturally took the side of the masses of the people and of reforms like, representation by population, upon which he worked up public opinion until they could be no

"On the other hand, Mr. Macdonald was agile physicially, had a natural gift for party management, and debate his weapon, though possibly not so powerful, was at least quite as keen as his great antagonist's. was no less successful on the public platform, where his jokes and funny stories-with which his speeches were freely interlarded-were often more ef fective than a logical argument would have been. But whether in parliament or on the stump his alertness in take ing advantage of any slip of his opponents and in piloting his party safely through political difficulties was at once remarkable and unequalled by any of his contemporaries.

"A field-night in the old parliament of Canada, when these two great political gladiators, then in the prime of |manhood, were pitted against each other in some great debate, seldom failed to arouse the members and spectators to a high pitch of excitement, and was an event not easily erased from the memory.

Early in the book Mr. Young speaks of the journalistic enterprise of Canadians. "The press of Canada," he tells us, "was conspicuous at an early date for ability and independence. In enumerating a number of the then flourishing papers he pays this kindly tribute to the Whig: "The British Whig, of Kingston, and the Journal, and Express, of Hamilton, were then prominent journals. The Whig is still to the front, and is, in fact, more igorous now in its old age than "it

There are few more interesting chapters in the book than those dealing with the formation of the union between Upper and Lower Canada and the political deadlock that followed. When parliament met in 1864, the Macdonald-Dorion government had a mai

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* ority of only one or two, and no important legislation was possible. This peculiar position (which, by the way. resembles that of a government of more modern times) gave rise to not a few amusing jokes. "The standard one was," says Mr. Young, "that 'Sandfield Macdonald didn't possess a drink-Parliament and the Press, by ing majority; a man daren't go out to drink for fear the ministry would be defeated before he got back.' fact, one notable attempt was made

who represented a riding not a thousand miles from the town of Stratford, to defeat the government in this way. He hired a carriage and invited two well known that in addition to or three reform members from ridings adjacent to his own, to view the beau-They accepted, but whilst the enjoycarriage, leaving the ministerial supporters nearly ten miles from the parliament buildings, and a vote on a taken. The government and its sup- within the course of an day or two. porters had to speak for hours against time until their 'drinking majority' could be hunted up. It was only at the last moment that the missing members walked into the house, footsore and weary, having walked all the way back from Avlmer. The division was taken and government, was again saved by its famous majority of one. The great array of facts that are here presented in entertaining style, the names of the leaders and the positions they filled in the various governments, the personal portraits of these ers, the tracing of the gradual growth Order teas. Lady Bourinot, who, be by a strong thread of reminiscenes children of Sir John's previous mar will last. Several chapters are devot- riages have long since grown up. ed to contemporaneous events in oth countries, such as the United States civil war, an interview with the World's Women's Christian Tem- property of soda in a useful way. the purchase money to any one findto the old land, and impressions of last week, and left immediately for Gladstone, Disraeli, Salisbury and Canada where she spent a week Palmerston. To some these references pleasuring before going to Portland may enhance the value of the book. to attend the annual meeting of the may relieve the continuance of an American Women's Christian Temper otherwise unbroken story of political ance union, which opened on the 17th. happenings; but to some readers the 'In Lady Henry's party are her cousin. chapters seem slightly out of place. In Miss Cameron, an artist who makes referring to the close of the United a specialty of decorating the interiors

"Truth forever on the scaffold, The above lines he ascribes to Tennyson, whereas they are from poem entitled "The Crisis," written by James Russell Lowell

Mr. Young has produced a good work, and his recollections of Canadian public men will be treasured by his countrymen, as they well deserve

Richard Whiteing, whose novel "The Yellow Van" is to appear in The Century, beginning in November, made his first striking success with "No. 5 John Street." Mr. Whiteing is in his sixtieth year, and his ancestors have been farmers' living in Yorkshire: He was born in London, studied art in the Government School of Design and became an engraver; but at twenty- idly that the headquarters have been five he made a hit with a short story in the London Evening Star, and took up journalism, which finally led to authorship. "The Yellow Van" op ens with the marriage of an English duke to an American "school-ma'am. Mrs. Wharton's story in the November Scribner's is in an entirely new vein for her. "The Lady's Maid's Y.W.C.A., has decided to remain in

Miss Julia Magruder's story in the November Scribner's, "Harry of England," is delightfully full of old-fashioned sentiment and romance, and centres about an incident at one of the

#### Stella Statements.

Stella, Oct. 15.—The annual mission- the city. Through the kindness of ary meeting in connection with the friends, the house has been renovated, Tuesday evening. The Methodist mis- nished. The Guild is the headquarsionary meeting will take place on or ters of work among the young girls In comparing the two rival leaders, before the 3rd of November. Mr and of the city. Tea coffee and cocoa can Mrs, W. Richard lost an infant child be purchased for two cents per cup Young terms them "The Pitt and Jast week. The infant child of Mr. and a lunch of bread and butter is and Mrs. J. Glen also died last week added for three cents more and here quite suddenly. Rev. Mr. Bowan has working girls may spend, amid pleas-"Though so opposite mentally and returned after over two weeks' visit in ant surroundings, the spare moments physically, they were in many respects Cincinnati. Mr. Lockhart, Syden at midday or on Saturday night. ham, has been visiting his daughter, Girl's Club is being formed and classes Mrs. Chown, for a couple of weeks, are being organized for the members. and powerful with his pen. He wield- Miss Maggie Johnston, has returned The Guild is open every night until ed a claymore both heavy and sharp from Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. R. G. half past nine, and young girls may Gervin, Hamilton, are visiting old find there in social company, reading

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## Canadian Woman's

From the Canadian Syndicate.

Ottawa, Oct. 18.-Their Excellencies, the Earl and Countess of Minto. by a western conservative member turned this week from their shooting trip in Manitoba and the North-West. Her Excellency's love of outdoor sports is well known, but it is not so other accomplishments, she is an cellent shot and numerous trophies ties of the Ottawa river generally and the way of wild fowl, proved her skill. the town of Avlmer in particular. Her daughters also enjoyed the sport and bore off no small share of ment was at its height the waggish honors. It is probable that the viceentertainer quietly slipped off with the regal party may spend some weeks in Montreal shortly, Lord Strathcona having placed his beautiful residence at their disposal. This matter, which non-confidence motion about to be is still in abevance, will be decided

The widow of the late Sir John Bourinot is a great favorite in ( tawa society, and will have the sympathy of many friends in her recent bereavement. Lady Bourinot is very young and handsome woman. having been the third wife of the late clerk of the commons, and is noted for her winning manners and artistic gowns. She is a manager of the Ot tawa branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses, and as acting convenor of the entertainment committee has often men, the famous speeches of the lead- made a charming hostess at Victorian of the spirit of confederation and the fore her marriage, was Miss Isabel many other subordinate subjects form Cameron, of Toronto, is the devoted a history that, when woven together mother of two small sons, but the Lady Henry Somerset, president of

States civil war, the author quotes of ocean liners, and Rev. Mr. Sanders, rector of the Church of Bromley, St. Mary's, London. Lady Henry has been giving much of her time of late to a settlement in connection with Mr. Sanders' church and Mr. Sanders intends to visit some of the leading settlements of the United States while in that country. Henry will return to Canada in time to attend the provincial W.C.T.U. convention to be held in Toronto at the end of the month. She was interviewed while in New York, and among other things she said that intemperance was on the increase among all classes of English women. The young women's settlement, which was opened ronto by the Dominion Young Women's Christian association, and which has since served as the headquarters of the association, has grown so rap temporarily removed to 123 George St., Toronto, the home of th president, Mrs. Harris, a place suite ble for permanent offices having not vet been secured.' Miss Sara Carson founder of the Christadora House New York, who has been acting as organizing secretary for the Dominion

> The Ottawa City Union of King' Daughters and Sons has now fairly started upon a work which was initiated last year. The union has organized a Guild and through the kindness of a friend has secured the lease for three years of a large house in a locality close to the business part of or music, banishment of the loneliness of the long winter evenings. The formal opening of the Guild took place

The Montreal Women's club has ar ranged to have a talk during the winter, by a leading newspaper man on How News is Obtained and Given to the Public." The idea is an excellent one, and if all women's organizations would take pains to inform themselves on the subject they would confer a boon on the newspaper women who have to report their proceedings. eminine misapprehensions regarding newspapering are many, but one the most troublesome is the inability to appreciate the importance of early copy. Any time before the newspaper goes to press is thought to be time enough, and that there is any difference between news from the seat war, which every one knows does get in at the last minute, and news of church social is selcom considered Another annoying misapprehension that newspapers know everything by intuition and are independent of the ordinary means knowledge. Reporters are supposed to know things without being told, and those who take the least trouble to see that they are correctly informed will complain most loudly about their mistakes. But this is generally speaking. There are exceptions and every woman reporter has a small company of "stand-bys," who save her from being driven mad by the un reasonableness of others and without whom she would assuredly have to go

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#### WHY WOOLLEN BLANKETS WEAR THIN.

A SCENE IN A GROCER'S STORE

Sir, I have just come round myself | the wool, and the question was as to to tell you that you have absolutely separating the two, because they were spoiled a pair of blankets on me.

I have Yes, sir, you have ! Surely you are mistaken, madam ! I am not mistaken. I sent round my little girl a few days ago for a good

strong soap to wash out some heavy things. In all innocence I used what you sent me, and the result is that my blankets are just the skeleton of what they were. They are ruined, sir, and it's your fault!

Yes, but I sent what I usually send in such cases. What you usually send! No won-

der Mrs. Moore, my neighbor, complains of her clothes wearing out; find you usually send her the same soap. But, madam, I always give my customers what they ask for. Had you fibre. named a particular brand of soap you would have had it.

Named a particular brand! How was I to know anything of brands? But I know better now, and I know what ruined my blankets-and my hands are in a nice plight, too!

I can assure you, madam, that it not my desire to sell anything that will be injurious to either the hands or clothing of my customers, and shall be glad to know how you prove that what I sold you injured your blankets and your hands.

Well, I was telling Mrs. Neill my trouble, and she lent me a little cut ting, and here it is; you can read it "Dr. Stevenson Macadam, Lecturer on Chemistry, Surgeon's Hall, Edinburgh, describes the destructive pro-

such as potash and soda, disastrously free alkali. It is guaranteed pure; affect cotton, linen, and wool, says:

Horace Greely, in New York, a visit perance union, arrived in New York There was a large quantity of new ing cause for complaint. blankets sent to one of our hospitals, Let me see it! Why, Sunlight which, when given out, were said by Soap! It's a beautiful clean, freshthe patients to be not so warm as the looking soap, and this Octagon shape is old blankets were, and that led to an very handy. Give me five bars. investigation as to whether the blankets were genuine or not. They looked well, and weighed properly, and I got a blanket sent to me for tions of alkali poisons : but it is not the grocer's fault

thoroughly woven throughout, and it was only by detaching the fine fibres from each other that you identified the cotton fibre. I fell on the device of using soda. I took a bit of blanket and put it in a vessel with soda, and boiled it there, and very quickly the wool got eaten away by the soda, and there was left behind the cotton as a kind of skeleton-a sort of ghost-of the original blanket out of which it was taken. I mention this merely to indicate to you the pernicious effects of using caustic materials, which when employed strong by themselves. affect woollen articles in this way, and which, even when not very strong, will more slowly, but with equal cer-

tainty, tend to destroy the woollen Now, I want to tell you that we neighbors have had a talk over the matter, and we are not going to have our clothes and hands ruined in this way. Several of our neighbors who know have proved to us that Washing Sodas, Potash, Chloride of Lime, and " soap substitutes" are most injurious to clothes and hands. "Free alkali" in soaps is practically the caustic soda that burns the clothes. Why, you dare not keep Caustic Soda in a tin canister; it must be in an earthen jar, or it will even corrode the tin! Now, it's for you to provide us with pure soap without free alkali, or we must find it elsewhere.

Madam, you enlighten me! So many soaps are advertised as pure, that I really took little heed to any perty of soda upon wool very graphi- difference between them.

I have one, however, that has medi-"After mentioning how strong alkali cal certificates of its freedom from and the makers offer \$5,000 reward to any one who can prove it is not pure, "On one occasion I employed this and further, I am authorized to return

> Note by the grocer.—This whole neighborhood is using Sunlight Soap now. I have no more complaints. I have no room in my store now for resinous concoc-

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