OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

The Cream of Canadian and American Verse.

An Old Proverb.

BY BENJ. F. LEGGETT.

When it rains, why, let it rain,
That's the way they do in Spain!
Here's a lesson we may ken—
All the hearty sons of men;
Truly worth its weight in gold
Is this proverb quaint and old;
It may teach us much of lore
We have never known before;
Let us bear it through the years;
It may save us many tears.
For the ills we cannot cure
Are the ills we must endure;
When it rains, then let it rain,
Just as people do in Spain.

Be the weather wet or dry,
Just as well to laugh as cry;
If the night be full of snow
Make the hearthfire brighter glow,
Shadows cannot always stay;
Whistle and they flee away;
Though the thunder rumble loud.
There is blue above the cloud;
Though the winds of winter blow
Violets slumber 'neath the the snow.
Though the airy floods may roar
And the clouds may pour and pour,
They don't murmur nor complain,
Happy people there in Spain.

Patient waiting brings the gleam;
Fret and worry are a dream
Full of nightmare and unrest,
Not the slumber of the blest;
Care is but a sorry wight;
Let him vanish with the night;
Why should he hold potent away
Till the fairest locks are gray,
Till the roses all are fled
And the wrinkles reign instead?
Up and bid him flit and fly,
Sweep the shadows from the sky,
And the sun will shine again
Just as brightly as in Spain,

Why should any mortal frown
When the shadows darken down?
Why bemoan life's petty ills
With castles on a thousand hills?
Or the wealth of earth and sky
All revealed to ear and eye?
If no night o'er earth were drawn
There could never be a dawn:
Seeds that slumber would be lost
But for ministries of frost;
Heed, O heed, this proverb old
With its wisdom manifold;
When it raineth—let it rain,
That's the way they do it Spain!
—Ward, Penn.

My Ships.

There are those who say "There's luck for me

When my ships come home from sea,"
And poets who wail as leaves the
shore

"The ship which sails to return no more."

But I cannot say "There's luck for

When my ships come home from sea,"
Nor mourn for the ships which, leaving shore,

Are fatal to vanish ever more.

For ships of mine from nowhere start, Nor furnish themes to thrill the heart, They are but phantoms of the brain, That sail around a shadowy main.

My ships are sailing in every sea, And always sail away from meSailing in darkness, shunning the light—

These spectral ships which cruise by night.

Round and round on the ocean's rim, In a watery waste with shadows dim, Silently sailing away, away,

Vanishing—sinking at dawn of day.

There's never the swish of a reefing sail,

There's never the mariner's cheering hail,

Nor gulls' white wings in outward dips,

To meet and welcome the homeward ships.

But the restless petrels hover in sport,

Nor leave the ships which have no port,

For the ghostly crews and pilots blind Shall never reach deck, or harbor find.

These ships still muster upon the main—

The hopes of the night at morn are slain—

And the mornings come, the evenings go, While the years glide by in measured

flow.

Oh, these ships that muster in every sea,

And sail—still sail away from me—
That never to me from foreign strand
With gems galore shall reach the
land—

That never for me at pier unload
The Orient spoils of jeweled gold,
But round and round on the boundless
main

Sail on—sail on in endless train.

My phantom ships of the spectral sea.
Sailing—sailing away from me—
With never a change, with never a sound—

Sailing forever round and round. C. H. Collins.

Hillsboro, Ohio.

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Letters Come.



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of Biliousness, and yet others of various complaints of the Stomach, Liver, Bowels or Blood, all through the intelligent use of Burdock Blood Bitters.

It is the voice of the people recognizing the fact that Burdock Blood Bitters cures all diseases of the Stomach, Liver, Bowels and Blood.

Mr. T. G. Ludlow, 334 Colborne Street, Brantford, Ont., says: During seven years prior to 1886, my wife was sick all the time with violent headaches. Her head was so hot that it felt like burning up. She was weak, run down, and so feeble that she could hardly do anything, and so nervous that the least noise startled her. Night or day she could not rest and life was a misery to her. I tried all kinds of medicines and treatment for her but she steadily grew worse until I bought six bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters from C. Stork & Son, of Brampton, Ont., for which I paid \$5.00, and it was the best investment I ever made in my life. Mrs. Ludlow took four out of the six bottlesthere was no need of the other two, for those four bottles made her a strong healthy woman, and removed every ail. ment from which she had suffered, and she enjoyed the most vigorous health. That five dollars saved me lots of money in medicine and attendance thereafter, and better than that it made home a comfort to me.

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