#### THE WORLD OF BOOKS.

#### A Sweet Singer of Canada.

Sincerity is never to be disregarded, now that so much is artificial, so much is prescribed rule, so much is hypocricy. But the poetry of Mrs. Jean E. U. Nealis is thoroughly sincere, natural, human. Without knowing the cause of the sadness of her life, she immediately appeals to one's innermost heart by the plaint-deep-felt, sorrowful, womanly-of her moaning. She commands one's respect by the implicit faith, and trustfulness that pervade her work. In one year her three children were taken from her, and she was left to bear up as best she could beneath her burden of grief, and, by that peaceful strength, which is granted to godly, faithful souls, she resigned herself to the Almighty will, and sorrowed uncomplainingly. The pathos of the little poem, "All," is remarkably strong and touching. "In Umbra Mortis" is an uncommonly strong poem. "After the Rain," "Doves," "On the Pier," are true poems, and a number could be named, from ber little book, Drift, published a few years ago, which



MRS. J. E. U. NEALIS. [From a Photo. by Climo

hold the reader with some peculiar, irresistible grasp. There is genuine inspiration in all her work, and her art is good. Truth is the great fundamental principle of all poetry, and Arnold has said that a "high seriousness" is needful. Mrs. Nealis can be nothing but serious, and her seriousness is of the highest. Her face, as will be seen by the cut, is bright, intelligent and very motherly. There is that fine dome to the forehead which bespeaks general ability, and adds so much to personal beauty,

The fault most common in the verse of today is either obscurity or lack of human interest. The writer may have thoughts, striving for freedom in utterance, that will strike sympathetic chords in the hearts of thousands, but by an excess of art-which means false art—he hides the beautiful thought under a charming combination of words, and thousands fail to find the thought, and care naught for the charming collection of words. The writer may, again, express himself clearly and well, but his verse may come not home to a single heart-perhaps not to his own, even-and who will give a second thought to a poem that fails to affect him? Mrs. Nealis' poems are clear and human. Some of them are haunting. The fact that many of us have felt as she has felt, and that now she expresses our own feelings draws us at once close to her. And she has special claims on us Canadians. She is a Canadian -a New Brunswicker-and lived for years at Fredericton. In her "Longing" she mentions tenderly College Hill, Maple Falls, the Hermitage, and other nooks freighted with old memories. Her present home is at Fort Dufferin, West End, St

### In Divers Tones.

I met Roberts first in New York, whither he came to see me, and I repeated the pleasure by going to see him at Windsor, Nova Scotia, where we stayed three weeks in the quaint old University building. I am constantly asked what I think of Roberts' poems? In the first place, I may say that I expect yet finer work from him than he has heretofore produced, for one cannot know Roberts as well as I do without feeling that he is a man of extraordinary poetic ability. He has admirable literary judgment and tact and a beautiful critical gift. If he was not such an overworked man he would choose some great theme and handle it in a way that would astonish the world -produce some monumental poem. He has it in him and only needs the opportunity. To particularize on his published books: I cannot lay my hands on an Orion here in Vancouver, so I must confine myself to In Divers Tones, a book that is full of fresh tones. Of his classical pieces I think "Actaon" the best-it is the most classical. The lines,

I have lived long, and watched out many days, Yet have not seen that aught is sweet save life, Nor learned that life hath other end than death. are worthy of that Diogenes of Florence, the great author whose Hellenics have the touch of a Greek sculptor of the Periclean age. Most people would prefer "Off Pelorus," a beautiful poem, singularly happy in its rhyme and metre. The latter part of "Out of Pompeii" is like one of Alma Tadema's pictures. But I don't like Roberts best in his classical poems, though there is a decided freshness in his treatment of classical themes; nor in his French forms, though "Calypso" is a very striking ballade. But perhaps the best poem in Her sign on Fame's proud front shall gleam in light. the book is the semi-classical "Pipes of

Pan," marred by only one fault-the occasional allowing a sentence to run over the end of the pentameter-whereas it is an inexorable rule of correct elegiacs that they should be in couplets—the hexameter and pentameter-complete in themselves. What could be finer than this poem's description of poets:

And mortals Straying in cool of morn, or bodeful hasting at eve, Or in the depths of noonday plunged to shadiest

Spy them, and set to their lips; blow and fling

Ay, they fling them away,-but never wholly!

Thereafter Creeps strange fire in their veins, murmur strange tongues in their brain,

Sweetly evasive; a secret madness takes them,-a charm-struck Passion for woods and wild life, the solitude of the

hills. Therefore they fly the heedless throngs and traffic of cities,

Haunt mossed caverns, and wells bubbling ice. cool; and their souls Father a magical gleam of the secret of life, and the

Calls to them not from afar, teaching them won-

derful things. Little gems for finish, completeness and picturesqueness are: "Before the Breath of Storm" and "Winter Geraniums." "In Notre Dame" has the rich Aldrichian suggestiveness-a delicious picture worthy of the artist of "Palabras Carinosas," "Clote Scarp." and "Trntramar Revisited," are fine. "The Potato Harvest," and "The Sower" are sonnets of farm life, as good as can be found-exact in description, dignifying a a humble subject, and distilling from it true poetry; but the sonnet on "Rain," I think, even finer, though it is so different in subject that one can hardly effect a comparison. But I like Roberts best in his patriotic poems, and such ones as "Afloat," "In the Afternoon," and "The Footpath." These have what has been finely called "the nameless charm "- the yearning quality, the atmosphere of pathos. But, of course, would give the palm to his "Collect for Dominion Day," which, on a former occa-

To every wind unfurled The flag that bears the Maple-Wreath.

'Canada," which sees

sion, I called "Niagarie," and his noble

How much richer would America be poetically, if, to Roberts as well as Stedman, there came the message of Elisha to leave the plough and be prophet. Too many poets have shared the fate of that most poetical of the English-speaking poets of our generation—the Australian Kendall—thus described by himself in his sublime "Dedication to a Mountain":

No song is here Of mighty compass; for my singing robes I've worn in stolen moments. All my days Have been the days of a laborious life, And ever on my struggling soul has burned The fierce heat of this hurried sphere.

—Douglas Sladen, in Vancouver World.

### Clear as the Sun.

Here is another for my friend to match. I will not give His Honor's name. Suffice it to say that he combined with his legal lore a good deal of self importance and a tendency to burst forth in a torrent of words whenever he would detect as he thought a weakness in the counsel's argument. It was the mild and inoffensive Mr. E. who was applying in his slow, sleepy way for a non-suit in the now celebrated case of Rags vs. Tags, when His Honor, who had been sitting for some time a curi ous picture of impatience combined with wisdom and discernment, gave vent to the following lucid remark:

"Lord have mercy, Mr. E., do you mean to tell me-why, it seems to me-can you, Mr. E., can you for one moment contendnow, just suppose a case-just suppose I say that John Jones or Jim Brown or Bill Smith, it matters not who, from the town of Moncton or from Timbuctoo, was the plaintiff in this case claiming under a tenancy by courtesy-mark you now, Mary Elizabeth Rags, as we have it here, and as it has been sworn to over and over again on this trial having died whilst her father (whom I knew very well indeed in my younger days) was still alive-now, how, I ask you, Mr. E. -now don't evade the point I am making for here it is in a nutshell-how could I with such evidence before me, be it the evidence of Bill Jones or Jo Smith or the Lord-knows-who, white or black, or black-and-tan,-don't you see, Mr. E., the point I am making? Why, it seems to me as clear as the noon-day

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With martial honor we our page unfold; The flying years-these have not left us shame, But set our hearts on fire, our cheeks aflame, With high, ambitious pride to see enrolled Among the nations of the great and bold, This Canada;—to win for her a name, Secure forever from contempt and blame, Dear to a people never bought nor sold. Shall others boast of battles? She hath stood On the beleaguered field, and nobly won, With justice for her cause, her armor, right: She hath her watchword; she can buy with blood That prize is dearest; and, when all is done, ARTHUR JOHN LOCKHART.

### SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

[FOR ADDITIONAL SOCIETY NEWS SEE FIFTH AND EIGHTH PAGES.

#### HAMPTON.

[PROGRESS is for sale at Hampton station by T. G. Barnes, and Geo. E. Frost, and at Hampton village by Messrs. A. & W. Hicks.

Nov. 20 .- A pleasant party gathered at the residence of Mr. Henry Hicks, in the Village, on Wednesday last, to witness the marriage of his youngest daughter, Miss Sadie J., to Mr. Robert H. Smith, of Worcester, Mass. The ceremony was performed by Rev. George A. Maynard. After lunch, the bride and groom were driven to Hampton station, accompanied by a large number of the guests, and amidst showers of rice left in the evening train for the city, en route to their future home in Worcester. Our girls are carried away one after another, and although we are sorry to lose them, I am happy to be able to say that the supply is still bountiful. Mr. George B. Seely was among the visitors in

town on Saturday. Miss Tweedie, who was visiting friends at Amherst, returned home on Wednesday.

Rev. Charles H. Paisley made a brief visit to Sackville last week Miss Kate Vaughan, of St. John, has been spend-

ing a few days at the village, the guest of Judge and Mrs. Wedderburn. Mr. John H. Harding was in town on Monday.

Miss Gow, of Halifax, is visiting Rev. George A. Maynard and Mrs. Maynard, at the village.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard D. McLeod paid Hampton a flying visit on Saturday. Miss Carrie Colwell and Miss Kate Colwell, who

have been in Boston for some time, returned home Mrs. S. Hayward paid a short visit to the city on

The Sunday school in connection with the Methodist church near the station gave a very pleasant entertainment on Sunday afternoon. The children with the assistance of the teachers, conducted the affair in a most creditable manner, and the exercises

were very interesting. The parents and a large number of visitors were present. Mr. William Pugsley, Dr. Silas Alward and Mr. Mont McDonald, were at the Vendome on Monday. Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Palmer and family who have been residing at Linden Heights since the latter part of May, returned to the city on Monday, having taken rooms at Mrs. Beard's on Orange street, for

Mr. William E. Raymond, of the Royal hotel, St. John, was in town yesterday.

#### SACKVILLE.

[Progress is for sale in Sackville at C. H. Moore's bookstore.]

Nov. 19 .- Mr. George Thompson, of the Halifax Banking Company, is now in Truro Bank. Weather in Truro has been north by east lately, but with Mr. Thompson at the helm, no doubt, there will be smoother sailing. If I do not always record correctly the movements of the clerks of the Halifax Banking Compony, it is because owing to the "Puss, puss in the corner" policy of the manager, it is hard to define the right habitation of the clerks.

Mr. Thomas S. Kirkpatrick, of the Enterprise Foundry, has gone to Halifax on business. Dr. Stewart and Miss Stewart who has been in

Boston for her health, are expected home this week. I hope Miss Stewart is much benefited by the

Mr. J. R. Lamy, of the "Lamy Hotel," Amherst, was in town last week.

On Friday, after a long illness, Mrs. Alex. Ford was carried to her last resting place. Although the day was most unpleasant a large number assembled at the house to show their respect for or take a silent farewell of the dead. Mrs. Ford was a favorite in a large circle of friends, as her flower covered casket showed. She had always been delicate, and during the last year suffered much from consumption, but she bore it with cheerfulness and courage. It was all the harder as she had four little children, one a mere infant. This is the second time Mr. Ford has sustained a loss and I sympathize with him in his

Rev. Mr. and Mrs. French spent Thursday at the Mr. Herbert Crosskill, of Halifax, spent Friday in town, on his way to visit friends in New York.

Judge Botsford is in town visiting his brother, Senator Botsford, at Acacia Grove. The pulpit of the Methodist church was occupied last Sunday morning by Mr. Dawson, who graduated from Mount Allison some twelve years ago.

Mr. Dawson and his wife are spending a few days with friends in Sackville. The ladies of Mount Allison held one of their semipublic meetings, in Memorial hall, last Saturday evening, but as "Mitten," unfortunately, does not belong to the "Semi," she cannot give any information as to their doings. I believe Socialism was one of the topics. Rather deep water, I think, for those

who have not yet got their growth. Mr. George Ford has returned from St. John, where he has been purchasing his winter stock. I am glad to see Mr. Arthur Atkinson (Mr. Ford's clerk) at his post, having recovered from his

### SUSSEX.

[PROGRESS is for sale in Sussex by R. D. Boal and . H. White & Co.]

Nov. 20 .- Rev. G. A. Hartley, of West End, St. John, preached in the F. C. Baptist church last Mrs. J. S. Trites is visiting her father, Mr. Oliver

Rev. Mr. Eatough left on Tuesday for Halifax on

Mr. Coulter White, of Hampton, spent Saturday

On dit that one of our popular clergymen will reeive a handsome present from his many friends in

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Brennan spent Sunday in We are to have two marriages in Sussex on the 25th and 27th, respectively, of which more will be

Mr. Jas. Mctt, of St. John, spent last Friday in

Mrs. G. P. Davies and family have left the 'Farm" here to make their home in Boston. They will be greatly missed. Rev. Mr. Cowie and Mrs. Cowie, of Waterford,

have been spending a few days with the Rev. C. P. Hanington, of Johnson, Q. C. Miss Delia Ruddock, has returned from her visit

The remains of W. G. R. Hind, who died at the Intercolonial Hotel, were taken to Windsor for interment, on Tuesday morning. Prof. Hind, of King's college, Windsor, accompanied the remains. Mr. E. McLeod, from St. Paul, Minn., is visiting friends here.

Mr. Charles T. White, of Apple River, N. S., has been spending a few days in Sussex. Mrs. Lawton, of St. John, has been sojourning in this village a few days, the guest of Mrs. Lamb.

### MUSQUASH.

Nov. 19 .- Miss Ella Anderson has returned after a visit to her aunt, Mrs. Charles Hazen, in St. John. Miss Amy Carman has returned, after a lengthy

visit to her friends in St. John. Mr. George Short, of St. Stephen, who has been in Musquash the past week, has gone to St. George

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