

THE WORLD OF BOOKS.

Songs of Old and New Canada.

Precious are the characteristic songs of a nation, that come down to later days freighted with the loves and longings, the hopes and aspirations of peoples who have long ago yielded their places on earth to their successors; people who felt keenly, did nobly, and suffered heroically, as we can hope to do. And interesting is his work, as it is worthy, who labors to preserve these memorials and put them in a more engaging light before the too careless readers of his generation; his is the praise of fidelity to the past, the present and the future. And such is due to the translator* of those chansons so dear to the simple peoples who founded their New France, which is now our Canada. A careful perusal several times repeated, has impressed us that this is no trivial accession to our literature; whether we regard the grace and fidelity of the translator's English, or the significance of the songs themselves, as they appear in the original language on parallel pages. On them all is the unmistakable impress of the race that produced a Beranger and De Musset, whether we hum the tender fantasy:

"Down to the crystal streamlet I strayed at close of day,"

the mock-heroism "Malbrouck," or the Troubadour-like lay of "Gai le Rosier," which, to my mind, is simply delicious. Surely there is a sprinkling of song's celestial dew about that "wood all greenerie," where

"The nightingale's song filleth Its glades with melodies; He sings for maid's beauty No lover holds in fee.

For me he singeth never, For my true love loves me."

There is an artlessness and serial beauty in some of these chansons which Mr. McLennan finely renders, but which nevertheless are the more the despair of the poet-translator, the more of a poet he is. Mr. McLennan gives, in a note, an instance of these songs, and their influence on the Frenchman; and tells us how that "Malbrouck" "was a great favorite with Napoleon, and many a time it was hummed by him when he was mounting for battle." And again "of its popularities with military men we Canadians have a later example in General Strange's reply to the 65th, a French regiment, during the recent Northwest rebellion. One morning, after weeks of tedious and toilsome marching, just as the men were about to fall in, the general heard the remark: 'Oh! when will we go home.' 'Ah, mes garcons!' laughed the General:

Malbrouck s'en va-t-en guerre Mais quand reviendra-t-il? (Malbrouck has gone a-fighting, But when will he return?)

And with their characteristic light-heartedness the men caught up the famous old air and the march was resumed without a murmur."

As a brief, and therefore available, ballad, we give the following entire:

J'ai Perdu Mon Amant.

HE. I've lost my Love, in sooth, For that my care is light; What small despite I feel Will soon have vanished quite, For mourning I will wear, A suit of satin fine, My only tears shall be Of wine.

SHE. What have I done, my Love, That thus displeases thee? Have I not loved thee, Dear As thou had'st right to be? I've loved thee, love thee now; I'll love thee, Dear, for aye, For thee my heart shall beat Always.

SHE. At home, the house is now A solitary place, Where one but seldom sees The light of lover's face, And those we love so well, With all love's tender pain, We love to dream we'll see Again.

HE. Were I a swallow swift, Towards thee, my heart's delight, O'er all these rocky wilds I'd quickly wing my flight, There safe from all the storm, Soft nestling in thy breast, I'd tell thee all my pain, At rest.

Of the more martial of these pieces "Brigadier" is a favorite with us, from the jocular spirit of it, and the easy flowing harmony of the verse.

Of the translations of these old chansons by Mr. McLennan, Mr. Lighthall has given us a number of examples in his recently-published volume—the best Canadian anthology extant,—while of the "A La Claire Fontaine," he has given a version of his own that seems to me better than Mr. McLennan's. But here we have the characteristic songs of modern Canada, also with accounts of the singers and notes, biographical and elucidatory; and certainly the complete impression of the volume is one most gratifying to the patriotic Canadian reader, who discerns thereby that the land has produced poets of which we have no reason to be ashamed. The introduction is well calculated to interest the casual

* Songs of Old Canada, translated by William McLennan. Montreal: Dawson Bros., 1889.

† Songs of the Great Dominion: Voices from the Forests and Waters: and the Settlements and Cities of Canada. Selected and edited by William Dowe Lighthall, M.A., at Montreal. London: Walter Scott, 1889.

reader in the work before him, and the arrangement is at once suitable and unique; so that in editing little is left to be desired, save that the volume might have been more comprehensive. The last section of the book, entitled "Seasons," is a rare casket of jewels, where our native poetry shines in completest lustre; but throughout, much is found to praise, and little to object to; and in these lays we are interested to see set forth not merely the genius of rising poets whose words the world will cherish, but also the glories and triumphs of a great people, and the salient or ever-changing features of the land and climate amid which they dwell. In the words of the genial poet who edits the volume,—here "you may catch something of great Niagara falling, of brown rivers rushing with foam, of the crack of the rifle in the haunts of the moose and caribou, the lament of vanishing races singing their death-song, the rural sounds of Arcadias just rescued from the surrounding wilderness by the axe, shrill war-whoops of Iroquois battle, proud traditions of conquests with the French and the Americans, stern and sorrowful cries of valor rising to curb rebellion. The tone is courage! tor to hunt, to fight, to hew out a farm, one must be a man!"

We will be surprised if this work does not command a wide and warm welcome among all English-speaking people, and especially in England and the colonies.

PASTOR FELIX.

The Magazines.

Scribner's Magazine for November contains a portrait of Emin Pasha—governor of the equatorial provinces, and an article "Where Emin Is," by H. G. Prout (Baroud Bey) describing the country and the people through which Stanley is travelling. It is well illustrated and interesting. In his "The Effect on American Commerce of an Anglo-American war," Professor J. Russell Soley argues that many of the principles of international law which England has been energetic in establishing are likely to react to her own disadvantage. "A New Field of Honor" is a useful and instructive paper by Capt. James E. Pitcher of the medical department of the U. S. A., treating of care of wounded and dying in battle or accident. Dr. M. Allen Starr's article, "Electricity in Relation to the Human Body," is timely. Mr. William Henry Bishop contributes a delightful sketch of the old university of Salamanca, illustrated from photographs. "Goethe's House at Weimar," by Oscar Browning is particularly welcome but it is all too brief. Mr. Lang's poem "An Inspiration" is rather disappointing. Mrs. James T. Field's "I am the Beginning and the End" is a new, strong poem. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York; \$3 a year.

The November Forum is a particularly good number, and its leading paper, on American Rights in Behring Sea, by J. B. Angell, is of special timely interest. Archdeacon Farrar's discussion of modern claims upon the pulpit, as might be expected, a liberal view of the real significance of christian teaching. A remarkable disclosure of the great individual wealth due to the United States laws for the protection of monopolies is contained in Thomas G. Shearman's article on The Owners of the United States. Then the Municipal control of Gas Works, the Cost of Universities, the Requirements of National Defence, and the Domain of Romance, by Maurice Thompson, will all repay careful perusal. The Forum is a most valuable publication for every thinking man. [The Forum Publishing Co., 253 Fifth Avenue, New York.]

The November Folio contains an unusual amount of good music. A portrait is given of Mr. Arthur Nikisch, Boston's new conductor, and a number of prominent musicians express their opinion of him in terms that are, at least, exceedingly, if not excessively, high. White, Smith & Co., Boston and Chicago. \$1 a year.

Notes and Announcements.

With its November number, the Century enters on its 20th year.

The author of Vice Versa, that admirable piece of real humor, has written a new novel, The Parish, which is naturally expected to meet with phenomenal success.

The Scribners have prepared a handsomely illustrated catalogue of holiday books for the young, which they send gratis upon application to any address.

Belford, Clarke & Co. say that they have never lost by any American work published by them, and that all manuscripts previously accepted by the firm will be paid for. Belford's Magazine will continue to appear.

Prof. C. A. Briggs' address before the Union Theological seminary, in September last, which evoked such a shower of criticism, will be brought out by the Scribners in pamphlet form, under the title of "Biblical History."

Scribner's Magazine's holiday number will be very attractive. The cover will be of drab, green and white. It will be more fully illustrated than ever and will contain an unusual amount of good literature. "Contemporary American Caricature," by John Ames Mitchell, editor of Life, will probably be a treat, reviewing, as it will, the whole field of American humorous drawing, and being illustrated by characteristic work from the pencils of J. Keppler, of Puck, Thomas Nast, A. B. Frost, Oppen, Van Schaick, C. D. Gibson, Rogers, Atwood, C. J. Taylor and many others.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

[FOR ADDITIONAL SOCIETY NEWS SEE FIFTH AND EIGHTH PAGES.]

MUSQUASH.

Oct. 29.—Mr. Stone, of Worcester, Mass., and Conductor Rand, of the Boston and Albany railroad, have returned home, taking with them an abundance of snipe and partridge, as the result of their shooting trip. Mr. C. A. Clarke entertained them for a few days at his camp, at Hall's lake, where they shot a bear.

Mrs. Russell has returned to her home in Chatham, accompanied by her friend, Miss Hattie Knight. Miss Emma Anderson is visiting her aunt, Mrs. Charles Hazen, in St. John.

Miss Amy Carman is spending a few days in the city.

Miss Minnie Dunlap has returned to her home in St. John, after a two weeks' visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Knight have returned from St. Andrews, to spend the winter in Musquash.

Mr. P. J. Richards, who has been spending a fortnight at his home, returned to Boston this week.

Mrs. Clowes has returned to her home in Oro-mocto.

The pie social, which is to be held in Clinch's hall, under the auspices of the Ivanhoe lodge, has been postponed until next week.

Mrs. L. Cameron, of Lapreux, has been visiting Mrs. Joshua Knight. VEGA.

RICHIBUCTO.

Oct. 30.—Rev. J. H. Cameron, of Bass River, preached in Chalmers church last Sunday evening.

Mr. S. L. Storer, of Brooklyn, arrived last Thursday and intends spending a few weeks in town. He is the guest of Mr. Geo. W. and Mrs. Robertson.

Mr. J. S. Simson, of Halifax, was in town on Monday.

Mrs. G. Beattie and Miss Sadie Beattie, left on Monday for Boston, their future home.

Mr. Donnelly McDermott gave a dinner party last Thursday in honor of Mr. J. McLaren, inspector of customs, and Mr. T. Crimmens, of Chatham.

Mr. Arthur O'Leary left on Monday for Memramcook college, to pursue his studies.

Mr. E. L. O'Brien, inspector of schools, left on Monday for Madawaska county.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry O'Leary returned from St. John last Saturday.

Mr. John Sutton and Mr. James Flanagan, of Moncton, and Mr. Geo. D. Frost, of St. John, were in town on Tuesday.

Mrs. William White left on Monday for Boston, to visit friends.

Mr. W. D. Carter, of the law firm of McNerney & Carter, who leaves for Dakota next week, was entertained last Wednesday evening, in the Kent hotel, by his numerous friends. REGINA.

DIGBY, N. S.

[Progress is for sale in Digby at Mrs. Gillebrand's.]

Oct. 28.—We are losing Mrs. Gilliland from Digby. She has sold out her book and stationary stock, and is about to open a similar establishment at Lunenburg, where she finds a more extensive sphere. Mrs. Morse is to take her place, and is a worthy successor.

Mr. Morrison, of the Myrtle house, Mrs. Morrison and family, are going to Bedford, near Halifax, to the winter.

General Wincey, was here last week for a bit of shooting. He and Capt. Daley always do good work with their guns.

The only gale I have to record this week is an infernal dance at Mrs. George Robinson's on Thursday evening, which was greatly enjoyed by the young people.

Mrs. W. E. Vroom, of St. John, paid Mrs. Lynch a visit at Hawthorne villa. She returned to St. John on Wednesday.

Mrs. E. Turnbull has returned home after a visit to Boston and other cities.

Mrs. Moody, of Windsor, is a visitor at Totten rectory.

Mrs. C. Dakin, of Boston, is visiting her daughter Mrs. Shreve, at Sycamore Lodge.

Mrs. Jamieson has gone to housekeeping in a pleasant cottage on Queen street.

Mrs. Norman Bishop has gone to Boston to pass the winter with her sister.

A few strangers still linger here, which speaks well for the attractions of Digby's lovely scenery and its pleasant climate. F. RAQUETTE.

TRURO, N. S.

[Progress is for sale in Truro at Mr. G. O. Fulton's.]

Oct. 30.—Mr. and Mrs. E. Atkins are in town, visiting relatives.

Prof. Eaton, of the Normal department, is in town again, after a long vacation.

Miss Thompson, of Newcastle, is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Smith.

Mr. Homer Putnam, son of Mr. Perley Putnam of Fort Belcher, and late of Dalhousie College, will be teacher of classics in the Normal, during the ensuing term.

Mr. T. S. Patillo and family have moved into their new residence on Pleasant street, adjoining the Y. M. C. A. Hall.

Mr. Miller Atkins and wife returned from their bridal tour last night per C. P. R. express.

Mr. Pelchen W. Cummings, son of Mr. Wm. Cummings, and a graduate of Dalhousie College, has opened a law office here.

Principal J. B. Calkin has returned from his trip to the States.

Mr. Fred Reed, of Baird & Peters, St. John, was in town last week.

Provincial Secretary Hon. Mr. Feilding, Colonel Blair and D. C. Fraser, Esq., were in town, last week, attending the annual closing of the Agricultural society.

Mr. Willoughby Hatch, of St. John, was in town last week.

Mr. George Smith, of the Lang Manufacturing Co., called on his Truro patrons last week.

Rev. Dr. and Mrs. F. W. Archibald left Truro last week for Toronto, where they expect to reside this winter.

Mrs. Vaunder gave a very pleasant dancing party last night.

Mr. S. M. Bently and wife were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Carter, last Sunday. Mr. Bently is from Sheffield's Mills, Kings county, and is about to go into business in Truro.

Mrs. George McLellan, of Economy, was in town this week. PEG.

AMHERST, N. S.

[Progress is for sale in Amherst at G. G. Bird's Bookstore.]

Oct. 30.—Mr. and Mrs. James, of Hamilton, Bermuda, are in town, visiting relatives.

Mrs. Coster has gone to Dorchester to spend the winter.

Miss Stewart returned to Halifax on Saturday.

Mr. W. C. Pittfield, of St. John, was in town on Saturday.

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