#### ----Notches on The Stick

We have before remarked the clearness of note, the evident lyrical sincerity of Anna Boynton Averill, Julia Harris May, and several of the minor singers of Maine. They dwell apart amid wild or rural scenes they love, and write only to express that of which the heart is full; their art is simple, their ideas obvious, their product not excessive; and, without false incentives, they are entirely untouched by the literary atfectations of the time. Daily experience lends them their choicest themes; the common walks and pursuits of life, its common joys and sorrows, furnish method and material wherewith to touch an improve the heart. These qualities distinguish some of the best work of Mrs. Emma Huntingdon Nason, T"The Tower, with Legends and Lyrics," Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1895] who is evidently a genuine poet of nature, delighting in her forms, and drinking in her inspiring spirit. She celebrates the "wild lavish goldenrod, shaking out the gold dust from its tufted threads;" the cornflowers, and "troops of daisies, born afield", with "dainty petaled rims", and "the first wild violet that blooms above the fragrant mould", in the poet's unmistakable way. Pregnant and brief we quote "A Rose in Autumn":

O bounteous Summer, we take thy bloom, Thy wealth of roses, and fling them by,-Petals of flame with their depths agloom, And, "Largess, largess!" ever cry.

But some late morn when the gray mists rim The meadows beyond the garden close, We kiss the ghost of the frost flower dim, And pledge our hearts for one perfect rose.

The lakes and rivers and mountains in the northern part of her native State, which have been such a fource of inspiration to Mrs. Mace and Miss Averil', have moved her also, as appears in the "Song of the Jennie":

Where skies are fair the Jennie rides The bosom of the sparkling lake; The breeze sweeps down the mountain sides, Kisses the water as it glides, And ripples in her wake.

We hear the stroke of rhythmic oars, By dainty hands dipped low and swung, As skims the boat by sunny shores, And where the gurgling stream outpours Its rocks and reeds among.

Or where thy mirrored crest beguiles, O granite browed Megunticook, She breaks the green pool into smiles, And nestles midst the fairy isles That to thy fastness look.

And when, at dusk, one white star shines Above the blue lake's mystic rim, The Jennie sweeps across the lines That fringe the shadowy shore of pines, Into the twilight dim.

And glad ears catch the liquid notes Borne brightly on the joyous air; O bonniest of bonny boats, With thee she sings, with thee she floats, The maid with shining hair !

Keep loving watch, O glorious star, Above the mountain's purple crown, Till swings the boat within the bar, And kindly from thine heights afar, O great Megunticook, look down !

But with all the love of her native state. Mrs. Nason's sympathy and intelligence are cosmopolitan, and she has taken a wide range in her choice of subjects. In this volume we find recited the legends of countries no less dissimilar and distant than England and Assyria, Germany and Greece, Scotland and Italy, France and Spain. Her intellectual no less than her poetic mastery is seen in some of these pieces, and notably, "The Tower," with which the book commences. In this poem she "represents the great tower of Belus proudly musing on its existence, which has has defied the fate that brought Babylon to a heap of ruins, and arrogantly asking, -'Can the story be written, I was?' The sequel shows that the story can be, and has been, written":

I am the tower of Belus! Can the story be writter, 'I was'?

Shall the tide of an ended existence flow back to the primal cause Which sent it first into being? and records of age

In utter nothingness vanish under the finger of time? Hist! a jar in the ragged brickwork! it totters and now is still; I can feel the sand slow trickling, with a cold un-

earthly thril', Perchance but a stone is falling-perchance it is death's last throe

Ah! under the young moon's glitter I catch the roseate glow Of the maiden's royal mantle and the clang of mailed tread

Tells that the past has cancelled its debt which held the dead. He cometh with step triumphant; he readeth fatefu

The last grim arch is shattered which linked their lot with mine.

Ah, fate to to the last relentless! thy vassal allegiance owns-Go back to your cities, O stranger! write, 'Belus a

heap of stones !'

the old Tower guards the secret of a himan bragedy, and we find love and death amid ruins. "A Ghost," is a legend of

be known hereafter as Sir James Macpher-Grand o'd town son Lemoine. This distinction,-the first

and of Eadburgha, the ruined Queen of Wessex, a wanderer-

Here doomed to beg forever more

Thy bitter bread from door to door. "Hadst Thou But Turned," is familiar to us, having been met before, we think in The Atlantic, - and it is one of the best. It is an expostulation with Sir Lancelot when he betakes himself to Astolat, the end of which is the sorrowful history of Elaine:

Sir Lancelot, turn back, turn back, I pray thee, from the lonely down! Why leavest thou the beaten track That leads to city, tower and towns? This way are footpaths rough and bare, Wild edge of moss or scanty fern; Beyond are meadows lush and fair: -Sir Lancelot, I pray thee turn:

Thou ridest with thy moody brain; Thou ridest with thy sullen heart; Broad roads there are whose ways are plain; Why seek the field that lies apart? Footpaths oft mean hearth-fires, I trow, And meat and drink-and after that? O sfter that-couldst hou but know, Thou wouldst not ride to Astolat.

' Unter Den Linden" we have also met before, in "The Poets of Maine,"-in which book she is not adequately represented, as to variety, quantity or quality, judging from the wealth of this volume Worthy of more extended notice, had we space, are "Glendare," a grim Scottish story; "Prophet and Poet," a legend of the palmy time of Sunny, beautiful Granada; "Shoes of Alabaster," "The First Greek Portrait,', "The Castle of Song," Body and Soul," and especially "Lavinia A Painting by Titian in the Royal Museum at Berlin," which we have read over and over. There are poems, the note of which is patriotic, such as. "The Battle-Song, A Ballad of Brittany, 1758." "The Phantom Flag," a legend of the American Union and "After the Victory;" and there are poems full of religious devotion, spiritual fervor, and tender human sympathy, such as "The Mountain of the Holy Cross," "Slumber Song," "A miracle," "At Vespers," "Transmigration," "Mereodes," "Simon of Cyrene," "A Child's Question," "Dolorosa," "Be Merciful to Me," "Christmas Roses," and "Attainment." Of poems inspired by the seasons and by native scenery we have, "Winds of the North," "Wild Violets," "June," "July," "August," "A

Mountain Heritage," ' Goldenrod."-There beyond the stretch of rugged sod, Which bears its tawny breast unto the sea, The thick brown alders grow, And hide the wall on which was placed for me

All wet with dew, so many years ago, Bright goldenrod.

"Enshrined," "Not Dead, But Sleeping," Hallowell Belis," "The Old Homestead":

Substantial and square and roomy, It stands on the hillside green, And the giant elm-trees guard it, While sitting down between.

The woof of their netted branches The sunbeams flit and fall, Or the drift of the tangled shadows Tenderly drape the wall.

'Tis the old familiar homestead; Its doors stand open wide; One looks to the light of morning, And one to the sunset side;

Eut cometh the guest from the eastward, Or cometh he from the west, The broad hall gives its welcome, Its welcome and its rest.

Now broad are the fertile acres, And deep is the clover bloom; And the great barns wait for its coming To sweeten their silent gloom.

And away to the south are the orchards, By dew and sunshine fed, Till the apples grow round and mellow,

Russet and gold and red; Ripe-red and russet and golden, They fall in the grasses fair. And the sound of their monotone music Throbs on the exquisite air.

"Once and Again," and "November," are so good we can scarce forbear quotation, "Necturne," "Wrecked" and "Spoken At See," show that, though living inland, she has felt old Ocean's power. We have not found in the book a single sonnet, and there is but one Ballade, and that is on "The Blithe Quartette, Locker, Dobson, Gosse and Lang." There is a single quatrain, which, because of its

significance, we quote: THE MEED OF GENIUS. In The Campo Santo. These pictures were Benozzo's. His the art That made all Pisa jubilant, 'tis said; And his reward? Oh! list, expectant heart!

Alas! and alas! Similar is the burden of 'The World's Verdict," which has been sometimes to harg the innocent and to

neglect the deserving. Mrs. Nason is a resident of Augusta, where she is the mistress of a happy home, and actively prominent in literary benevolent and religious circles. Her work is highly endorsed by the press and by liter-

ary people, and she is entitled already to a foremost place among the singers of her native state. Quebec's honored citizen, her historian and doyen, is, by the grace of royalty, to

of its kind bestowed in recognition of Canadian letters, -will not be grudged by the envy of any who know him; for there is no one who will bear his laurels with a more gracious modesty, or more regard them as illustrating his honorable profession and his land of glorious history, rather than as an exclusive possession. "It is rather 1emarkable," remarks the Quebec Chronicle, "that the heads of the households of both Spencer Wood and Spencer Grange should have been knighted within a few months of each other. Sir Adolphe Chapleau is one of the most literary of Quebec's Governors, and Sir James Le Moine has enriched the literature of the early Governors of New France."

A message comes from the far South'and wafted over miles of winter snow; it is from our good friend Mr. Collins, and is dated, San Luis Potosi, Jan. 13: "I send you greeting from this dreamy old city in Mexico, for all the world like in Egypt or Syria. We are lezily floating along through Mexico. Lett Hillsboro, Jan. 2, and two weeks will be gone before we reach the city of Mexico. This is the land of Poco Tiempo, and Manana to morrow. No description has come up to the land as PASTOR FELIX. we have found it."

#### A SUBTLE THIEF.

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Plain Words.

irritable over matters of intellectual difference. One day he was at the Macmillans', and when the conversation turned upon the subject of Ireland Mr. Macmillan said that, for his part, he was in favor of granting autonomy.

This set Freeman to growling at the use of a Greek word.

'Why can't you sneak English,' said he, and say Home Rule, instead of using Greek, which you don't know?'

One of the guests flushed with anger, and ventured to reprove him, calling his attention to the respect due their host. and at the same time paying tribute to Mr. Macmillan's remarkable abilities. But although Freeman did not apologize in so many words, he smoothed the matter over by a humorous repetition of his criticism. Later in the evening gout was mentioned. 'There again!' he exclaimed. 'Why can't we call it toe woe?' Everybody laughed, and the breach was healed.

#### "A Just Beast."

Doctor Temple, the new Archbishop of Canterbury, is brusque in manners, and has rather a rough tongue; but he is a just man, and as such compels respect. Says an exchange:

Doctor Temple himself delights in telling a story of the old days when he was headmaster of Rugby, and a boy whom he had had to punish expressed the vigorous opinion, 'Temple is a good beast, but a | whatever periodical is chosen to the person sending the subscription. just beast.'

#### A FLAT CONTRADICTION.

The Oft-Repeated Statements by Physicians that Chronic Rheumatism Cannot be Cured Refuted by Sworn Statements.

There never was a time when people were so sceptical in reference to medicine as the present; 'tis no wonder, for their credulity has been played upon by the unreliable claims of advertised cure-alls until doubt is converted into a belief that all announcements are imaginary pen pictures. Rheumatic sufferers are of the class whose intense suffering has led them to try first one thing, then another, until repeated failures convince them "there is no help for them." They hear about the startling cures made by Kootenay, but cannot overcome the suspicion that 'tis like all the rest. They do not know of the hidden power in "The new ingredient" peculiar to this preparation, that banishes Rheumatism—of how it enabled George Ball, blacksmith, residing corner Sanford Avenue and Huron Streets, Hamilton, to arise from a helpless condition and take up work in the City Quarries at hard labor, discharged from the hospital with the assurance "they could do nothing for him, his system was so full of rheumatism no power on earth could drive it out;" then lying at his home for weeks unable to lift hand to mouth, having to be fed by his This narrow space where he might rest when wife, when the King's Daughters of Hamilton brought him Kootenay. Three bottles effected a complete cure. This is not more strange than the story told by Mrs. Guy, wife of Mail Carrier Robt. Guy, Brant Ave., Hamilton, whose mother love breathes thanks for the restoration of their seven year old Willie. His lower limbs were so swollen with inflammatory rheumatism he could not put his feet to the floor, the slightest touch causing intense pain, growing gradually worse, until his condition was pitiful; it seemed they were going to lose him, when Kootenay was used and three bottles completely cured him, so that he is going to school. The detailed sworn statements of above cures, with hundreds of others, can be obtained by addressing The Ryckman Medicine Co., Hamilton, Ont. If Kootenay is not obtainable of your dealer, sent charges prepaid on receipt of price, \$1.50 per bottle. Send for Chart Book, mailed free.

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