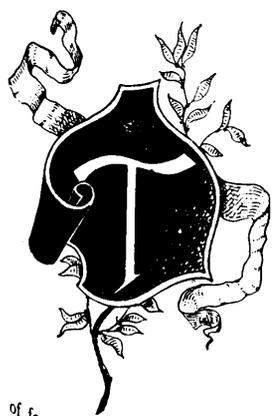


# NEW BRUNSWICK AUTHORSHIP.

## INTRODUCTION.



THE study of books is second only to the study of man. A reader meets with the very best aristocracy in his books, an aristocracy, not of birth, nor of wealth, but of mind. No wonder, then, that there are so many lovers of books, men who cherish a book as they do a human being! Commend to me the book crank above all others of that species, he who can tell of all the rare editions

of famous works, whose shelves are filled with publishers' catalogues, whose mind is filled with prices, prints and particulars of curious and valuable books, and who is often to be found in the secondhand bookstore poring over piles of old parchment.

Book-hunting is an agreeable pursuit. The chase is exciting and expectation is as pleasant as realization. In New Brunswick there is abundant scope for the bibliophile's searches. Local book lore tells of many rare, curious and valuable books. Pamphlets were issued as far back as a century since, bound books early in the eighteen hundreds; but they have fallen prey to the various maladies that afflict the children of the press, and copies of them are scarce. This of course renders the chase more exciting but realization less frequent. Yet the book-hunter never complains.

New Brunswick literature includes the names of many whose fame has extended beyond the confines of their own shores and gone into other lands. Though the page tells of many who would be called simply local writers, there are many who are known as Canadian and even as American writers. We have not yet reached that point of vantage when we can claim a world's writer. One distinction is that we have so many who have won a Canadian or even an American reputation.

The Loyalists supply the reason for this fact. More than a hundred years ago they settled our province. They were a cultured literary people and they brought with them their love of books and learning. This love they fostered in their children and grand-children, and as their fathers were so were they. A country is usually settled altogether differently, by people who have neither time nor inclination to devote themselves to literary pursuits. Printed volumes seldom find a place in the home of the pioneer, and his mind seldom rises beyond the clearing of his land and obtaining from it his daily bread. In this case, too, the offspring are as their fathers, and there is little chance for literary growth. Thankful then should we be that the Loyalists were our ancestors.

Again, New Brunswick offers food to nourish literary life such as is offered by few lands. Her natural scenery is grand, her traditions, folk lore and legends are beautiful and inspiring, her history is full of noble incident. The "Rhine of America," the magnificent Micmac mythology, the romantic story of Madame La Tour are part of her heritage.

Our leading artists won fame while located in other climes. The love of literature was fostered at home and they went abroad to give expression to that love. This was meritorious. A broader field meant broader fame, and that fame was bound to reflect credit upon the place of their nativity.

History is valuable only when it is exact and impartial. No matter how excellent its style, it loses its worth if it does not possess these requisites; it becomes literature, not history.

The leading New Brunswick historians are models in this respect. John Foster Kirk, a native of Fredericton, was a co-labourer with Prescott, and wrote a "History of Charles the Bold" that does not suffer by comparison with the greater writer's works. The late Charles Wentworth Upham, of New Brunswick birth, wrote a great many biographies, and his "Salem Witchcraft" is an authority on that interesting subject. He took rank as one of the first historians in New England. James Hannay's "History of Acadia" has placed him in the van among Canadian historians, while Dr. Stewart's "Frontenac and his Times," and "Canada under the Administration of Lord Dufferin," are voluminous and

comprehensive works. William Cobbett, who resided several years in St. John, was one of England's leading pamphleteers and political writers, and his "Grammar" and "Register" may be numbered among her most enduring works. George E. Fenety, a well known journalist and Queen's printer, has written a political work that will be of value as the years advance, since it treats of the period when New Brunswick was torn by the struggle for responsible government. Moses H. Perley was an extensive writer on the early history and industries of New Brunswick, and probably knew more about Canadian fisheries than any man living before or since. Walter Bates, an early Loyalist, wrote a small volume that was published in, and had an extended circulation in Canada, United States and England. The book describes the highly exciting (and the more interesting since they are facts) adventures of "Henry More Smith," an ingenious rogue, whose many remarkable escapes are related. J. W. Lawrence, of St. John is a careful compiler of Loyalist history. He has in manuscript a very valuable work on "The Early Judges of New Brunswick." The late Dr. Bill's history of the Baptists in the Maritime Provinces, and Lieut.-Col. Baird's descriptions of early life in New Brunswick, are works of much value. George R. Parkin, the great Imperial federationist, is Thring's biographer.

James De Mille and May Agnes Fleming, both of whom were born and bred in St. John, are the pioneer novelists of Canada and are numbered among the few who acquired a reputation abroad. They were on good terms with the leading publishing houses in the United States, a fact that is suggestive of popularity and worth in itself. The two or three dozen novels which each produced have been widely read and have brought them fame in their respective departments. De Mille's novels are powerful and original tales of love and adventure. The others are very racy society stories. Prof. Roberts and Charles Lagrin have contributed stories and sketches a great deal to the leading magazines and journals of the United States. James McGregor Allan's sketches of life in Canada were received with much favour in England. Mrs. Julia Hart, Agatha Armour and Mrs. Ald. Estey, of Fredericton, and Kate Gannett Wells, of Campobello, are numbered among our lady novelists. Rev. Dr. Wilson has written several stories of New Brunswick life.

Charles Frederick Hartt, had he lived, would have risen to the eminence as a scientist to which Sir William Dawson has attained. But, as it is, his "Geology of Brazil," the result of his labours in that country, where he gave up his life to the cause he loved, has brought him fame. George M. Theal, a quondam St. John man, but now a resident in South Africa, has written several works on the history, geography and folk lore of Africa, which have been adopted for use in the public schools. Abraham Gesner, J. F. W. Johnston and Alexander Monro have been leading scientists in New Brunswick in the past, Prof. Ganong, Prof. Bailey, Prof. Brittain, G. U. Hay, Edward Jack, C.E., and Mr. Matthews are leading scientists of the present time. Sir Howard Douglas, one of our governors, wrote several works on military science.

Dr. Hyde, for a time professor at the University of New Brunswick, has been spoken of by a leading scientist as the most trustworthy of all students of Irish folk lore, and he is well known both as a prose and verse writer.

Among those in this province who have written on theological topics may be mentioned Revs. Wm. Ferril, John De Soyres, Dr. Bennett, Dr. Pope, Wm. Aloes, Bishop Medley and Bishop Kingdon.

Everywhere, where Canadian verse appears, our New Brunswick bards are well represented. New Brunswick is the nursery of Canadian song and the Celestial City is the nursery of New Brunswick song. James Hogg wrote early in this century, and his verse was highly complimented by his namesake, the Ettrick Shepherd. Peter John Allan wrote exquisite verse from classic models. Roberts, Carman and Stratton, three sons of three sisters, are a trio of nature's poets, and the two first are among the few Canadian poets who have won distinction in the United States and England. Roberts is quite generally known as the laureate of Canada. H. L. Spencer, of St. John, is a master of that medium of the heart's expression, the sonnet; and his verse has received the encomiums of Bryant, Goldwin Smith, Edgar L. Wakeman, and other eminent critics. Some of

Mr. M. Sabiston's poems were highly praised by Longfellow, and were incorporated into his Poems of Places. William Murdock's productions have all the ring and fervour of his loved Bobbie Burns. Nelson and Hannay are a duo of true patriotic poets, and the first bears the proud distinction of being author of Canada's national anthem. Oliver Goldsmith, a collateral descendant of the great Oliver, wrote a very good imitation of The Deserted Village, entitled the Rising Village. Rev. W. W. Campbell, late of St. Stephen, is the Canadian Swinburne. E. B. Chandler, of Moncton, has embalmed in graceful verse some charming Indian legends. William Martin Leggett wrote and W. P. Dole writes with much feeling and polish. Rev. A. J. Lockhart is very fanciful and truly Canadian. George Arthur Hammond, the printer poet, writes with classical grace of things spiritual. Casey Tap is possessor of a very pretty dialect style. Matthew Richey Knight has a genius for epigrammatic poetry. De Mille has penned some charming lines both serious and comic. Jonathan Odell, the first provincial secretary of New Brunswick, wrote some revolutionary poems during the war, to which much interest attaches on account of their subject. Among other poets and versifiers of the province may be mentioned Alex. Heron, Frank Risteen, Martin Butler (the Peddler Poet), Margaret Gill Currie, Geo. Dixon, Thomas Hill, W. D. Kearney, Beatrice McGowan, David Palmer, James Redfern, Letitia F. Simpson, Dr. F. K. Crosby, Agnes Megowan, Jean E. U. Nealis, Clare Everest and W. F. Watson. Lastly we will bring up a strong rear guard, consisting of the Robert family, three brothers of Professor Roberts, ranging in age from twelve to twenty-one, and a sister, all of whom have contributed to the leading journals of Canada and the United States.

JAMES HOGG.

Three great names in British song appear in New Brunswick poet lore. These are Campbell, Oliver Goldsmith and James Hogg. Those in our province who bore these names, though they moved in narrower spheres, are nevertheless worthy namesakes of their greater predecessors.

James Hogg was the first in New Brunswick to invoke the muse. He and the Ettrick Shepherd were distant relations and they were well known to one another, while the first and only book of poems gotten out by the younger James obtained a flattering criticism from his famous elder.

The subject of our sketch was born in Leitrim, Ireland, September 14th, 1800. He came to New Brunswick in 1819, settled near St. John and from there removed to Fredericton. He engaged at first in farming and business, but these occupations were uncongenial to his taste, and in 1844 he founded the *Fredericton Reporter*. In journalism he found his true sphere and he conducted it with much success for twenty-two years until his death in 1866. It came into the world as a very small weekly sheet, but it enlarged at various times until it obtained to a very considerable size.

Mr. Hogg was a born journalist and his paper was both well managed and edited. It was a success whether from a business, a political or a literary point of view. He engaged in the tedious battle for responsible government from its infancy, giving able assistance with his pen (for his paper was one of influence) while Wilmot, Fisher and others conducted the reform in the legislature. The combined power of the press and platform prevailed, and the *Reporter* had the good fortune to share in the victory.

Mr. Hogg carefully revised all his writings, and as a result his editorial columns displayed more polish than those of more modern newspapers. He also devoted much attention to literature, and the paper was enriched by original tales and poems. He endeavoured to make the *Reporter* a power in letters as well as in politics, and he was successful. The stories and verse from his own pen, which appeared in the columns of the *Reporter*, received words of high compliment from ex-Governor Wilmot, Solicitor-General Kinnear and other leading men of his time.

We will deal first with his earlier works. These are contained in a small volume, published by Henry Chubb, St. John, in 1825. It is a neat little volume and its make-up reflects great credit upon early bookmaking in St. John. There is probably but one copy in existence, that in possession of a daughter of the writer.

The poems are lyrical with the exception of a few narratives entitled "The Hermit of Woodford," "Armin and Amanda," and "The Taper of the Wood." These have much of the grace and beauty seen in "The Deserted Village," and in style and construction bear an eighteenth century stamp. They follow the mode set by Goldsmith,