

CHAS. G. D. ROBERTS.

Charles George Douglas Roberts, poet and prose writer, was born at Douglas, York County, New Brunswick, January 10th, 1860. He is a son of Rev. Canon Roberts. His mother was the daughter of the late Hon. Geo. P. Bliss, of Loyalist descent, at one time Attorney-General of the Province. He was educated at the Collegiate School, Fredericton, whose principal was then Geo. R. Parkin, a teacher fitted "to lead boys and make men." Mr. Roberts graduated with honors from the University of New Brunswick in 1879, and was appointed principal of the Grammar School at Chatham, which position he held for three years, when he accepted the principalship of the York Street School, Fredericton, which he resigned at the end of a year to become editor of the *Week*, Toronto. Later he was professor of English Literature and Economics in the University of Kings College, Windsor, until 1895, when he quitted teaching, and from that time until the present he has devoted himself entirely to literary work, making his home of late years in New York.

Mr. Roberts is a poet first; and his best work in verse was done during those years when he had, as he tells us in his ode to Bliss Carman,

"A little space for dreams
On care-unsullied streams—
'Mid task and toil, a space
To dream on Nature's face!"

When he delighted in those great stretches of Acadian forests and their wild folk, the wide salt marshes of Tantramar and Avon, the floating in birch canoe on "rivers brown and strong," and in the quaint legend from the mouth of his Indian guide. The poet has pictured our woodlands, streams and farms—subjects, many of them common-place enough, as "The Potato Harvest"—in language that we delight to linger over and that charms all true lovers of those quaint scenes, descriptive of our own country and its life. Mr. Roberts has many warm admirers here, and they will love him best for his poetry. But poets must live; and though our "poet is bidden to Manhattan Island" to address large audiences, yet he still finds his themes in Acadian forests and streams.

Mr. Roberts is best known to the people by his short stories, novels, and his animal stories. In the latter his genius has been shown in a degree no less marked than in his poetry. His interpretation of the actions and motives of animals is remarkable, and he is a peer among such writers as Ernest Thompson Seton and William J. Long. Mr. Roberts differs from these two in the fact that he is a poet as well as an observer, and with the poetic instinct he has a wonderful intuitive perception of the nature of animals. But he is a poet—first, last and always—evolving from his own imagination a kinship with the wild and a sympathetic effort to give them attributes which they may or may not possess.

The following is a list of the poems and principal prose writings of Mr. Roberts, arranged nearly in the order of their publication: *Orion*, and other poems; *In Divers Tones*; *Poems of Wild Life—An Anthology*; *Canadians of Old* (a translation); *The Canadian Guide-book*; *Ave—An Ode for the Shelley Centenary*; *Songs of the Common Day*; *The Raid from Beausejour* and *How the Carter Boys Lifted the Mortgage*; *Reube Dare's Shad Boat*; *Earth's Enigmas* and *Around the Camp Fire* (stories); *The Book of the Nations* (poems); *The Forge in the Forest*; *A History of Canada*; *New York Nocturnes*; *A Sister to Evangeline*; *The Heart of the Ancient Wood*; *Book of the Native*; *How Fiardeau Found the Black Abbe*; *Marshes of the Minas*; *Colonial Days* (a novel); *Complete Poems*; *The Kindred of the Wild*; *Barbara Ladd*, a novel; *Prisoner of Mademoiselle*; *Book of the Rose* (poems).

Mr. Roberts was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada until he took up his residence in New York. He was married in 1880 to Mary Isabel, daughter of Geo. E. Fenety, Esq., of Fredericton.