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"SONGS and Sonnets" is the appropriate title of a volume of poems by Helena Coleman. There is a veritable singing quality in many of the lyrics in the former half of the book and the music is borne in the heart of the sonnets also, closing with "As Parsifal of Old," a melodious yielding to the "sweet enchantments" of beauty and love. Throughout the poems is the spirit of a broad humanity, of a courageous meeting of life's discouragements and dangers, and a trust in the "larger hope." The form in which these sentiments find expression is of literary ease and grace, with a fine sense of verbal harmonies.

But to some readers, such poems as "On the Trail," "When Orchards Bloom," "My Roses," and "Crimson Buds are on the Maple," form the most attractive reading among poems that are of unusual distinction. The first stanza of "My Roses" is full of that spontaneous joy in "God's colours" that is the poet's supreme happiness.

"Glowing, passionate, perfect,
Crimson fold on fold,
Packed with that exquisite beauty
Only a rose can hold—
Under the velvet petals
Hints of hidden gold."

The author's use of contrast is finely shown in the lines of "Invocation," a poem that almost sets itself to music:

"The grapes hang purpling on the wall,
The flagons brim, the apples fall,
The hours run fast;
Grey shadows lengthen, toward the west
The sun is turning—be my guest
While life shall last."

Again there is noticed that revelling in autumn's pageantry which glows in our Eastern Canadian poets. There is occasionally too much moralising on nature's loveliness, as in the latter half of "When Orchards Bloom." Some of us prefer to follow the method of Tennyson's "Day-Dream" and find the "lesson" for ourselves.

Patriotic verse is not always poetry and much of the modern outpouring about our country's destiny is more loyal than literary. But in Miss Coleman's "I Am Content With Canada," there is a happy blending of felicitous phrase with patriotic feeling. Who that has heard the "lonely loon or curlew call" does not thrill to such lines as these?

"Across our own unnumbered North-
ern lakes,
And over leagues of winding water-
ways
Upon whose nameless shores the aspen
shakes
And yellows in the soft autumnal
haze."

There are many readers who will recognise with gratitude the sonnet "In October" ("On the University Lawn") as the expression of their own inarticulate admiration.

The Canadian firm issuing this volume may be justly proud of paper, type and leaf-strewn cover which make the publication, "Songs and Sonnets," a delightful gift-book. (Toronto: William Briggs.)

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