

tion which he possesses in treating of classical themes are well shown in "Orion," "Ariadne," and no less perhaps in "The Pipes of Pan," Mr. Roberts' last poem, which he contributes to the present number of the VARSITY. "Love-Days" and "Iterumne?" are poems of passion and pathos such as would alone approve their author divinely gifted with the sweet attribute of song. Still, none of the poems which we have mentioned will make Mr. Roberts a popular poet. They speak of a life beyond and apart from the work-a-day world, and their gentle music will fall unheeded on many ears. Of quite another nature are "The Maple" and some of Mr. Roberts' more recent contributions to the magazines. These appeal directly to provincial tastes and feelings, and are sure to meet a fuller appreciation from Canadians.

THE MAPLE.

Oh, tenderly deepen the woodland glooms,
And merrily sway the beeches,
Breathe delicately the willow blooms,
And the pines rehearse new speeches;
The elms toss high till they brush the sky,
Pale catkins the yellow birch launches,
But the tree I love all the greenwood above,
Is the maple of sunny branches.

Let who will sing of the hawthorn in spring,
Or the late-leaved linden in summer;
There's a word may be for the locust-tree,
That delicate strange new-comer;
But the maple it glows with the tint of the rose,
When pale are the spring time regions,
And its towers of flame from afar proclaim
The advance of Winter's legions.

And a greener shade there never was made
Than its summer canopy sifted,
And many a day, as beneath it I lay,
Has my memory backward drifted
To a pleasant lane I may not walk again,
Leading over a fresh, green hill,
Where a maple tree stood just clear of the wood—
And, oh, to be near it still!

THE NORTHERN LAKES OF CANADA.*

To those who desire a guide book, pure and simple, with no pretensions to literary merit but with the fullest information regarding the region denoted by the title, there is nothing to be found at all equal to Mr. Barlow Cumberland's book. The key note to the book is in the seductive phrase "A little farther on" with which the first chapter opens. And so the writer leads his reader pleasantly enough from Niagara Falls, where everybody goes, to the dream-haunted lakes of Muskoka, shadowy with islands, across the Georgian Bay and through the great archipelago of the North Channel, along the base of the La Cloche Mountains—"bare Laurentian billows of granite," up the St. Mary River and the Sault, and along the north shore of Lake Superior to Port Arthur and Duluth. There are numerous wood-cuts throughout the book—not of a very great degree of artistic excellence to be sure, but good enough to fairly illustrate the text and to render it more attractive and readable. There are also several useful sectional maps of the route, those of the various Muskoka Lakes being especially good. Recognizing that our interest in places is increased by historical associations, the writer relates many incidents of aboriginal days and of the old French and Indian wars. Finally, this book con-

tains a list of the necessities of a camping outfit, the names and addresses of local guides to the best sporting and fishing grounds and a synopsis of the game laws of Ontario.

ANOTHER YEAR'S WORK.

It will not perhaps, be uninteresting at the close of the academic year 1885-6 to review the course of the VARSITY, and see whether or not it has rightly discharged its important function as a university journal—viz., of endeavoring to mirror comprehensively and faithfully "university thought and events." Perhaps the reader may regard such a proceeding as his prerogative, and may resent any editorial comment as unbecoming and partial. But the misconception and misrepresentation from which the VARSITY has suffered during the past year affords a reasonable excuse for a few words of explanation at the present time.

There have been many theories advanced as to the true sphere of a College paper, and the subjects which it should and those which it should not discuss. The conductors of the VARSITY, having adopted the sub-title "A Weekly Journal of University Thought and Events," have deemed that definition comprehensive enough to permit of the introduction and discussion of topics of all kinds which could, or should, interest university men and university students.

We have striven to reach a high place in the field of college journalism, and to make our paper something more than a mere colorless and ephemeral school-boy effort. In this endeavor we should have received the sympathy and support, instead of the sneers and opposition of those to whom we most naturally look for help and encouragement. But the time has gone by when college journalism can be laughed out of existence. It is, and must be recognized as a powerful factor in university life. It is a serious undertaking, and is no child's play, as a few of our readers are prone to imagine. Instead of helping us there are not a few who are doing their best to fetter us, keep us down, and repress any effort at improvement and advancement.

The critics of the VARSITY appear to forget that the university exists for the students and not for the officials. A public office is a public trust. University College was founded for the instruction and education of the youth of the country who desired academic training, and not for the purpose of providing a comfortable livelihood for a number of estimable gentlemen who were to be entirely removed from the arena of criticism, and from the influence of public opinion. We venture to add that there are none more likely than the students to appreciate rightly and fairly the good work done by their instructors and governing officials; none more ready freely and thankfully to acknowledge it; and none more tolerant of indifferent and unsatisfactory work in the lecture room and Senate Chamber. But at the same time we, and they alike, reserve the right of free and open criticism when occasion demands it.

These, then, are some of the reasons why criticisms of the kind referred to have appeared in our columns. Their necessity was and is their *raison d'être*.

We have made no pretension of being oracular in our utterances, nor have we claimed for ourselves infallibility of judgment, but we believe that discussion and criticism are the indispensable conditions of intellectual life and the indications of academic progress.

The VARSITY does not desire to occupy a position of antagonism to the authorities of the University and University College. We have been anxious to uphold their dignity and authority when it was possible for us to do so. And a reference to our columns will show that we have not refrained from expressions of hearty and

* "The Northern Lakes of Canada." By Barlow Cumberland. Toronto; Williamson and Co.