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## LITERATURE.

## POETRY.

GIVEN AND TAKEN.

BY MRS. LEPROHON.

The snow-flakes were softly falling
Down on the landscape white,
When the violet eyes of my first born
Opened to the light;
And I thought as I pressed him to me
With loving, rapturous thrill,
He was pure and fair as the snow-flakes
That lay on the landscape still.

I smiled when they spoke of the dreary
Length of the winter's night,
Of the days so short and gloomy,
The sun's cold cheerless light—
I listened, but in their murmurs,
Nor word nor thought took part,
For the smiles of my gentle darling;
Brought light to my home and heart.

Oh, quickly the joyous spring-time Came back to our ice bound earth, Filling fields and woods with sun-chine, And hearts with hope and mirth, But still on earth's dawning beauty, Rested a gloomy shade, For our tiny household idol Began to droop and fade.

Shuddering, I felt that the frailest
Flower in the old woods dim,
Had perchance a surer and longer
Lease of life than him:—
Lease of life than him:—
On a sunny, golden day,
When flowers gemmed deils and wood-lands,
My blossom passed away.

How I chased at the brilliant sun-shine Flooding my lonely room, How I turned from the sight of nature So full of life and bloom.

How I longed for past wintry hours With snow-flakes fulling fast, And the little form of my nursling In my loving arms clasped.

They put up each tiny garment
In an attic chamber high,
His cradle—his empty cradle—
That they might not me et my eye;
And his name was never uttered,
What e'er each heart might feel,
For they wished that the wound in my bosom
Might have time to close and heal.

It has done so, thanks to that Power
That has been my earthly stay,
And should you talk of my darling,
I could listen now all day,
For I know each passing minute
Brings me nearer life's last shore,
And nearer that cloudless kingdom
Where we both shall meet once more.

## SKETCHES OF INDIAN LIFE.

I.

THE ABENAQUI'S STORY.

I was going along my line of traps, when I met an Indian with a sledge hauled by two dogs. He was a Montagnais, so that I could not understand much of his language, but he spoke English a lintle, and we could easily make one another out. I said to him, "You have a heavy load on your sledge." "A heavy load," he replied, in a mournful tone.

\* I saw he did not like to talk, so I asked him to come to my lodge and pass the night. We got there early, and cooked some