

journalism would suit him better and he joined the staff of the *Montreal Witness*. He was not trained, however, for this work nor was he rapid in writing out reports, and he found it all very laborious. The only time he had for poetry was in the evening at home, surrounded by his family. His reading was not varied, and to acquire general culture he never had the leisure. His favourite studies were the Bible and Shakespeare. His recreation was taken on Mount Royal, where he never tired of watching the varying sunshine and storm passing over the distant stretches of the landscape around him. So passed until his death in 1876, his, to all appearance, uneventful life. Hard work he had by day, but evening brought his favourite pursuit, "the prouder pleasures of the mind." The account of his life and works in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada mentions 1869, 1876 and 1878 in different passages as the date of his death. But I am assured that Mr. John Reade's statement that it was 1876 is to be relied on.

The reputation of Heavysege as a poet rests on the drama "Saul," "Jephthah's Daughter," and a few sonnets. He wrote some other pieces, "Jezebel," "Count Filippo," "The Owl," and "The Dark Huntsman;" but those already mentioned are his best. "Saul" shows at once his greatness and his limitations; the beauty of his imaginative thought, often expressed in haunting lines, on the one hand, his prolixity, anachronisms, and want of dramatic form on the other. Bayard Taylor says of it: "It cannot be measured by dramatic laws. It is an epic in dialogue, and its chief charm lies in the march of the story and the detailed individual monologues, rather than in contrast of characters or exciting situations. The breath of a lofty purpose has been breathed upon every page. The language is fresh, racy, and vigorous, and utterly free from the impress of modern masters; much of it might have been written by a contemporary of Shakespeare."

The story of "Saul," as told in the Bible, is that of a man whose magnificent physique, great stature, and striking