

.. PREFACE ..



THE objects in publishing this memorial are :—

FIRST—To show that the interest in Canadian Poetry is not (as some of our scribblers complain) dead, but on the contrary, very much alive.

SECOND—To prove to the self-elected synod of rhymers that their doctrine is a crude and fallacious superstition believed in by no one save themselves.

THIRD—To inform the said synod that the world fails to weep when its great head, Mr. Roberts, succumbs to poetical hysterics at the sight of a *mapkin*, which, if calmly considered, can in no wise be asserted even by a professor, to "*Rival the Unrisen Sun*."

FOURTH—To notify all and sundry of that honorable body that this country utterly refuses to endorse nonsense, even should the writers thereof carry into effect, the harrassing threat, to leave their native land unless the people will read their rubbish.

FIFTH—That no amount of newspaper controversy can make their productions sell.

SIXTH AND LAST—That Poets and Poetry have not sunk as yet to that commercial basis above which rhymers have never risen.

A few explanations are now necessary—The authors immediately under review are those who willingly, or unwillingly, contributed to Lighthall's compilation, published under the title of "Canadian Poems and Songs in 1892," London, Walter Scott ; Toronto, W. J. Gage, & Co.

This volume contains so much ridiculous and absurd jingle that the few good pages it contains are completely obscured. The general idea prevailing in the Editor's mind was evidently to draw his selections from those who occupied semi-eminent positions throughout the country, he was doubtless thought that the ability of his authors in other walks of life