

February, 1867, in the 78th year of his age, but still lives in the well gotten up volume of Gaelic poetry which he gave to his countrymen.

The popular songs of the people, however, must be their love songs, and in this branch of the subject the Kelto-Canadian had a rich treasury. As the French-Canadian inherited the folk-song of Old France, so the Gael of Canada did the songs of the Scottish Highlands. Love songs live long. To-day can be heard songs crooned in Nova Scotia or in Ontario, whose origin is lost in the mists of time, or of authors who lived many generations ago in Scotland. Such a song, for instance, is "Fear a Bhata," "The Boatman," one of the finest of our Gaelic love songs:

TRANSLATED:—

"My friends oft tell me that I must sever  
All thought of thee from my heart for ever;  
Their words are idle—my passion's swelling,  
Untamed as ocean, can brook no quelling.

My heart is weary with ceaseless walling,  
Like wounded swan when her strength is falling,  
Her notes of anguish the lake awaken,  
By all her comrades at last forsaken.

Another example would be: "Ho ro mo nighean donn bhoidheach," sung by a chorus of children in Toronto not later than last June. The translation of a verse will show the intensity of the sentiment pervading it:

TRANSLATED:—

"O maid whose face is fairest,  
The beauty that thou bearest,  
Thy witching smile the rarest,  
Are ever with me.

"Though far from thee I'm ranging  
My love is not estranging,  
My heart is still unchanging  
And aye true to thee.

"Thy smile is brightest, purest,  
Best, kindest, demurest,  
With which thou still allurest  
My heart's love to thee."

But the settlers themselves and their descendants to the present time composed love songs which obtained popular recognition, many of which have seen the light of the day on pages of books or periodicals, but many, very many, still remain to be collected and preserved as interesting specimens of the Gaelic muse in Canada.

Some of the better known Gaelic poets of Canada are: Dr. James Macgregor, Rev. D. B. Blair, Rev. A. MacLean Sinclair, Evan MacColl,