

OUR NATIVE MUSE.

Nova Scotia has been the leader in Canada of a great many things. In oratory, in humour, in history, she can show good claims to precedence, and in poetry she has not been behind. MacPherson, Howe, Lockhart and others were born here. Professor Roberts, while a native of New Brunswick, lived a large part of his mature life in this province, and wrote a good deal of his poetry under Nova Scotia inspiration, and now we welcome to the ranks another Nova Scotian in the person of Mr. D. M. Matheson, at present Principal of Young Street School in this city. He is a Cape Bretoner and a Scotsman of the Scots. His work displays a wide variety from the tragic to the humorous, from the romantic to descriptions of natural scenery, and many a locality endeared to his youth has been enshrined in his verse. The pieces themselves exhibit a considerable mastery over the more common rhythms and metres, the verse is fluent and the vocabulary quite extensive and varied and many a melodious line is found in his work. The sonnets generally observe the true rules of that form of verse, and some of the lyrical pieces like that in "Langmarc" and "The Soul of Flanders" have the genuine ring and fire in them. Chebucto and Petoobok exhibit some excellent passages, and the former evidences much wide reading on the beliefs, usages and reputation of our aborigines! Altogether Mr. Matheson's volume is deserving of a real welcome on the part of the poetry reading public of his native province. He has our congratulations.

DR. E. BLACKADDER.