

*In a Less
Pious Mood*

And then again :

Canada is your native land,
Ontario is your home,
May Heaven be your resting-place,
When on earth you cease to roam.

It seems only natural that there should be some who had not written in a pious mood. For instance :

If scribbling in an album
Friendship secures
With the greatest of pleasure
I'll scribble in yours.

There was something very personal and sometimes very intimate in these autographed sentiments, and in a few instances the meaning seemed to be obscure. For example, when the music teacher wrote,

As brevity is the soul of wit,
Therefore I shall be brief,

we were not sure just what he meant. Jessie Littlejohn used to remark that he meant to say that shortness is everything. Perhaps that was because she herself was short of many things—short of stature, short of breath, short of that elusive substance that makes both ends meet. And although she used to say that she would rather do a day's washing any time than write her autograph, her name could be found in every album from Dublin to the Boundary. Her favourite text, a text indeed favoured by many others, was this :

I wish you health, I wish you wealth,
I wish you friends in store,
I wish you Heaven after death.
What could I wish you more?

Oftentimes in those days a verse of this character written in an album was decorated with a device in the form of coloured flowers, idealized or classic landscape, doves of peace, cornucopias, or gates ajar stuck on with mucilage. And some of these devices bore mottoes of their own :

Of all that is near
Thou art the nearest;
Of all that is dear
Thou art the dearest.

The sea may rise,
The mountains fall,
But my love for thee
Will live through it all.

*The Motto
on the
Device*

Others, again, had only simple and brief inscriptions, such as "Trust in me", "Ever thine", "Think of me" and "Un-