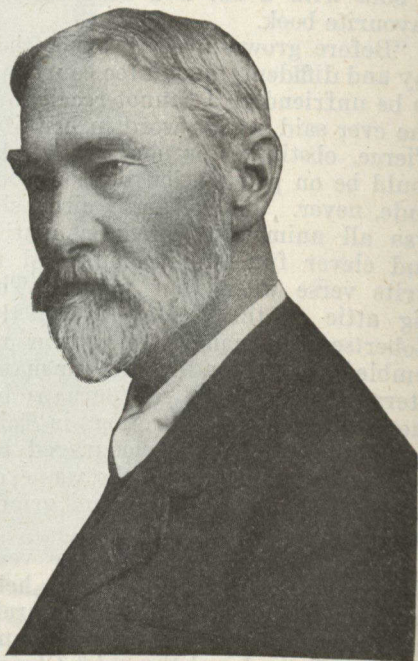# THE LIBRARY TABLE

WILLIAM E. MARSHALL.

AN APPRECIATION BY CHARLES MORSE.

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY, speaking of guides to the way of joyous living, said: "Now of all sciences is our poet the monarch. For he doth not only shew the way but giveth so sweet a prospect into the way, as will entice any man to enter into it." That, I think, very fittingly describes the Canadian poet William E. Marshall. Mr. Marshall is a native of Nova Scotia, and has always made his home there. A barrister by profession, in early middle life he accepted the position of Registrar of Deeds for the District of Bridgewater. The calm and even tenor of official life has enabled him to develop his mind according to his tastes. He had never any taste for the strife, ignoble or otherwise, of city crowds. True, that up to the publication of "Brookfield" in *The University Magazine* a few years ago, his remarkable gifts as a singer were known only to the chosen few of his intimates, but he could always say *"me raris juvat auribus placere"*—and the great Meredith could not say more to the day of his death. It is not perhaps more by what he has written than by the manner in which he has lived that his poetic quality is bodied forth. He has been a maker (*poietes*) of sweetness and light from his earliest youth for those who enjoy the felicity of his friendship; and his faith in the capacity of man to realize the secret bias of the soul for divine joy, notwithstanding the besetments of the world, the flesh

W. E. Marshall,
of whose poems a complete edition has just been published by John Lovell & Son, Montreal

or the devil, has been affirmed by precept and example with an ardour that has never flagged. Although confessedly ever seeking occasion to contemplate

> That realm where truth and beauty dwell
> Forever and for aye unconquerable
> Of earthly pain or death's eternal law,

his prepossessions on the purely human side of life are constant and sincere. The plastic arts have always greatly attracted him, and, without any special training, he has done some