

verse—than whom Canada has no warmer friend—and also several stanzas from the pen of a cultured lady member of his household. In the familiar name of Grant Allen will be recognised a scientific and philosophical writer who has also tried his hand—and it is no mere 'prentice one—at poetry.

Among the French writers is the well-known name of Louis Honoré Fréchette. It will be, however, of interest for English readers to notice how many excellent poets there are in Lower Canada besides M. Fréchette—with all due deference to his genius. The names of Léon Pamphile Lemay, Benjamin Sulte, Napoléon Legendre, and Octave Crémazie, are all names worthy of the respect, admiration, and intimate acquaintance of every intellectual Canadian. James Donnelly and William Chapman are two French writers despite their English names. M. l'Abbé Caron and M. l'Abbé Gingras have both cultivated poetry, and most successfully.

With regard to the plan followed in placing the selections, it is evident that in such a compilation the chief point to be gained is this—that there shall be given for "every day in the year" a noble thought, an improving maxim, or a new idea. I found, however, if my selections were to embrace these and only these, that, though undoubtedly a correct and useful production, it might be proclaimed too didactic, too heavy, and too monotonous to suit all tastes. Again, I found some difficulty in procuring exactly Three Hundred and Sixty-five Noble Thoughts, Improving Maxims, and New Ideas. I, therefore, decided to be guided in a great measure by the seasons, which, old as they are, yet come to us each year with renewed beauties and benefits of suggestion. As Nature teaches to true Poets a pure and unerring morality of her own, I have thought that—in our young and beautiful country, where we may assume a comparative immunity from low moral standards—it would be safe to allow our writers to show us the fall of the leaf, the birth of the flower and the daily marvel of the sunset, both as they bear upon human life and its experiences, and as they exist beautifully in themselves. I have indicated one or two historical events and personages, and when I found three, four, five, and more passages bearing on the same subject I contrived to use such extracts consecutively so as to bring a little order into the comp'lex whole.

It has been impossible to include *every one* who may have written good poetry in the Dominion, and I can only hope that any inadvertent omission may be received in that lenient spirit which I shall wish the public to display towards "THE CANADIAN BIRTHDAY BOOK."

SERANUS.