

when thousands were acting upon Horace Greeley's advice, to go west and grow up with the country. He was born, the youngest son of his family, on 23rd April 1852, at Oregon City, Oregon State, and, his father dying before the future poet's fifth birthday, he was reared by a devoted and talented mother. After the elder Markham's death, about 1857, the family moved southward into California, first to keep a general-store, and subsequently a sheep and cattle ranch in the central portion of the State. During boyhood he followed the farmer's noble and healthy calling. He was trained at the district school, and, having by his industry, managed to save some money, he paid his own way through the State Normal School at San José. Then he studied law, but like so many men of creative genius, he did not find the occupation to his liking, and deserted it for school-teaching. In education he, by sheer merit, gained many high positions. Head-master of the Tompkins Observation School, at Oakland, California, an institution which is affiliated with the State University, is his present title and address. He has published two volumes of poetry; the first was entitled "In Earth's Shadow," and the second is "The Man with the Hoe and Other Poems," which within a year has made him famous. A public writer has a just claim to privacy of life. This sketch, brief as it is, contains all the public has a right to know about Mr. Markham. For much of the information, I am indebted to an instructive paper on the new literary star, contributed by the highly-endowed poet, Mr. William D. Kelly, to that model paper for young people, the "Weekly Bouquet" of Boston City.

Mr. Kelly says that Mr. Markham, judged by his verse, seems to be "a mystic and a socialist, who believes in an earthly millennium that is yet to dawn upon the world." The critic is by far too fine a scholar and too broad-minded a man to use these terms, "socialist" and "mystic," in any disparaging sense, but it is doubtful if very many of his readers, be their intelligence what it may, will not misconstrue them, left as they are by him without much explanation. In fact, the terms are nearly always and by almost everyone honestly misunderstood or cunningly perverted. As I believe Mr. Kelly to be perfectly correct in using the words to characterize the general trend and tone of Mr. Markham's volume, and in view of the many different meanings