

With wider vision which may show the world  
Its cannon dumb, its battle-flags close furled!  
—Dreams? We may dream indeed, with heart elate,  
While a new nation clamours at our gate!"

"Lake Louise" describes something of the beauties to be found in our Rocky Mountains, and our own Coast region supplies inspiration for the fine descriptive poem on "The Sleeping Beauty" and "Down at the Docks," as well as the title poem, "Fires of Driftwood," a free verse offering which besides a pleasing rhythm has poignancy of phrase and true poetic power. "Down at the Docks," with its clever concreteness of sensuous impressions crowding one after the other, and its haunting overtone of the glamour of the sea, is as fine as Masefield at his best and is one of this reviewer's favourites in the collection.

That Mrs. Mackay is not a stranger to the mystic realm of Faerie is evidenced in "The Banshee" and that charming lyric, "Fairy Singing," with its haunting rhythm. "The Witch," in which the heroine, because a monk has fallen in love with her, is burned at the stake for witchcraft, is a fine example of the ballad form:

"They haled her to a witch's doom,  
They matched her shining hair with flame—  
But ever through the cloister's gloom  
The mad monk babbles of her name!

And when the red sun droppeth down  
And wet sand gleameth ghostily,  
Men see her weave a sea-weed crown  
Between the twilight and the sea."

Several poems in the collection deal with the war and with Canada's part in it. Space does not permit, in this brief notice, of dealing adequately with many which strike a deep and serious note. The tribute to Marjorie Pickthall at the end, exquisite in its simplicity and inevitability of phrasing, will give pleasure and evoke gratitude, especially from those who were her friends and who admired and enjoyed her work.

McClelland & Stewart are to be congratulated on the format of this volume, so artistically embellished by the artist, J. E. H. Macdonald, A.R.C.A.

#### A PATH-FINDING SCAMPER 'CROSS CANADA.

Motorist enthusiasts, as well as many who are not motorists at all, will welcome "A Pathfinding Scamper 'Cross Canada" (The Ryerson Press, Toronto) by Percy Gomery. This is the chronicle of a trip from Montreal to Vancouver made by the writer and his wife in the summer of 1920 and provides a narrative full of interest and literary charm. Mr. Gomery has managed to describe the country through which he passes and the condition of the roads with admirable fullness and yet without tedium to the reader and has handled a difficult problem with considerable skill. "The book is not a treatise for experts," he says in his preface, "but for the everyday motorist having an itch to cross the continent." It will also have its appeal, however, to the less daring souls, who are fond of adventure, but prefer to experience its thrills by proxy and enjoy them second hand in their arm chairs.

And adventure is by no means mild in this protracted scamper on four wheels, in which the progress of the party was followed with interest by the press from Atlantic to Pacific. Starting with a midnight alarm in a lone inn in Ontario, encountering bears a little farther on and colliding with a mounted cowboy in the Rockies, to mention only a few of the thrills, the reader who likes a tale with a punch to it will not be disappointed.

Mr. Gomery has a pleasing gift of humor and there is much sprightly banter and fun between himself and "The Skipper," his partner in the undertaking. The folk with whom they meet along the route and stay with over night

are often delightfully described. There are many funny incidents that take place but "The Great Drama of the Gall Stones" is especially amusing. However, I shall not spoil it for the reader by repeating the plot of it here.

This book is a decided acquisition to the season's offerings.

R. A. H.

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