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FAITH FENTON.

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JOANNA E. WOOD.

The following interesting sketch of Joanna E. Wood, the Canadian author is reproduced from the Buffalo Express. It is from the pen of another young Canadian writer Honora S. Howard.

Lack of nationality in her work and in her personal characteristics inclines us to place the author of "The Untempered Wind" among the cosmopolites. Of Scottish birth, Canadian education and American literary training, she is a person of such wide sympathies that no other classification would readily suggest itself.

While she was yet an infant, her parents came to this country and chose for their home a picturesque spot on the Heights at Queenston overlooking Niagara River. Here Miss Wood's childhood was spent and no doubt the splendid natural environments among which she was reared played no small part in forming the future writer. Her education was received at the St. Catharines Collegiate Institute, a school which in its sixty-nine years of existence has trained scores of those who are now Canada's best known men and women.

To write was Miss Wood's ambition from her earliest years, and very thorough has been her preparation for her chosen work. So thorough that it was only after much study and hard reading that she thought of giving her writings to the public. For a long time they were shown only to her elder brother, who had been her constant critic. In fact, it is to him that Miss Wood ascribes her subsequent success, for in spite of his severity with her literary faults, it is to him that she owes all her stimulus and inspiration. But life, even more than books, she has studied in a most systematic way. Frequent trips to Europe have formed part of her training, while each winter she takes up her residence in some centre of social or literary life; sometimes she has chosen New York, oftener Boston, and this winter Philadelphia is her temporary home. Her literary work and study are varied by numbers of social duties, for Miss Wood has hosts of friends. Last winter she did no writing, but threw herself heartily into the social life of that gayest of cities, Paris, chiefly for the purpose of bringing herself more in touch with French literature through a better knowledge of the people. In London, too, she had every opportunity of seeing the best of English life, while the purpose of her last visit to Scotland was to collect material for a story of the mining district.

Miss Wood has always been a strong opponent of the tradition that writing women must be dowdy and severe looking. She frankly confesses a fondness for smart gowns, dainty surroundings and all feminine frivolities. Though she has advanced most unconventional theories in her writings, yet she is by no means a "new woman," in any of the popular acceptations of the term. She has no desire to vote, is not an upholder of the rational dress movement and has even declared that she will never ride a bicycle.

As a disciple of the realistic school, Miss Wood has no sympathy with the righteousness that condemns the erring while putting forth no hand to help. Writers, above all others, she holds, must be tolerant and charitable; illiberal censoriousness should be no part of those who must live near to humanity before they can interpret it aright. Her own favorite authors in the order of preference give precedence to the poets. Miss Wood always declares that there is a great gap between Shakespeare and the others who arrange themselves in her mind thus: Shelley, Keats, Byron, Burns, Rossetti, Swinburne and Browning; then Thackeray, Meredith, Thomas Hardy and Barrie. Among women writers George Eliot, Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Mary Russel Mitford appeal to her most warmly.

At present Miss Wood is working at a story of the New-England hills, and when this is finished, she hopes to begin the Scottish tale for which she so long been collecting material.

HONORA S. HOWARD.

CANADA, LAND OF THE MAPLE TREE.

BY ALEXANDER MUIR.

God bless thee Canada our home,
Land of the Maple Tree;
There is no land in all the world,
We love so well as thee!
Britannia's crown has many gems
Of wealth and beauty rare;
Among them all, thou reign'st supreme;
The fairest of the fair!

CHORUS—

We're Britons born, and Britons still,
And Britons aye shall be;
The Union Jack, the flag we love,
Shall guard our Maple Tree.

Here England's Rose blooms sweet and fair,
As in its native land;
And Scotia's Thistle waves its head
Majestic great and grand;
And Ireland's Shamrock sings its song,
Of love and mirth with glee;
The three entwined grow fresh and strong
Around our Maple Tree.

No foreign power shall o'er us rule,
Our liberties onthrall;
Fair British play shall hold the away,
With equal rights to all.

*No other flag shall o'er displace
The grand old Union Jack;
Should foes assail, our Lion's Paw
Will hurl the invaders back.

In our loved land, so vast, so grand,
That spans from sea to sea,
Millions unborn, shall find a home
Beneath our Maple Tree.
Three cheers for Britain's Empire vast,
Three cheers for Canada,
Three cheers for our beloved Queen,
Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!

*As this song was composed during the time of the Equal Right's movement, the following four lines took the place of the four lines commencing "No other flag, etc."

No other race shall o'er displace
The sons from Britain sprung,
Our schools shall teach our noble speech,
The Anglo-Saxon tongue.

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