

RECENT CANADIAN POETRY.*

BY THE EDITOR.

THERE are those who say that Canada has no native poetry, and indeed, little native literature of any sort. They seem to think that as a people we are so rough, raw, and uncultivated, so engaged in the sordid race for riches, if not indeed in a mere struggle for existence, that we have neither time nor taste to cultivate the gentler muse. The annexed list of books which have come to our table within a few days, disproves this unjust and unpatriotic assertion. It shows that amid many discouragements the stirrings of poetic fire are felt, and that our native songsters, like the lark, "sing for very joy because they must," whether men will hear or whether they will forbear. For so young a country, for a country so handicapped in the literary race, for a country where our native poets are brought into rivalry with the most cultured singers of old and wealthy civilizations, we think that their efforts are something of which we may well be proud, are auguries of higher achievements in the future, and merit the kindly patronage of those who would foster a love of poetry, both for its own sake and as an important element in our native literature.

We regret that our limits of space will prevent a more adequate notice of the books under review. Mr. Cameron's poems have the pathetic interest of a voice from the grave. Had the young life, so early cut off, been longer spared, what harvest might we not expect of ripened fruit of which this volume of verse is so full of promise. And these hundred and sixty poems, we learn, are only a fourth of his brief life's work. We trust the Canadian appreciation of these noble songs

* *Lyrics on Freedom, Love and Death.* By the late GEORGE FREDERICK CAMERON. Edited by his Brother, Charles J. Cameron, M.A., Kingston. 8vo, pp. 296.

The Poems of WILLIAM WYE : WITH. Newmarket, Ont. Pp. 265. Price \$1.00.

Poems and Translations. By MARY MORGAN (Gowan Lea). Pp. 195. Montreal: J. Theo. Robinson.

Thoughts, Moods and Ideals. By W. D. LIDTHALL, Montreal.

The first of these may be had of the Editor, the others of the respective Authors, or from the Methodist Book Rooms at Toronto, Montreal and Halifax.