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APPROXIMATION PRIZES.					
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S. E LEFEBVRE Maniger, 81 St. James St., Montreal Canado.

#### GRAY ROCES AND GRAYER SEA.

Gray rocks and grayer.sea,
And surf along the shore—
And in my heart a name
My lips shall speak no more.

The high and lonely hills Endure the darkening year And in my heart endure A memory and a tear.

Across the tide a sail
That tesses and is gore-And in my heart the kiss
That longing dreams upon.

Gray rocks and grayer ses, And surf along the shore And in my heart the face That I shall see no more-

-Charles G. D. Roberts, in Century.

#### IN ABSENCE.

My love is far away from me to-night.

Oh spirits of sweet peace, kind destinies,
Watch over her, and breath upon her eyes;
Keep near to her in every hurt's despite,
That no rude care or noisome dream affright.
So let her rest, so let her sink to sleep,
As little clouds that breast the sunset steep

Merge and melt out into the source.

My love is far away, and I am grown
A very child, oppressed with formless glooms,
Some shadowy sadness with a name unknown
Haunts the chill twilight, and these silent rooms
Seem with vague fears and dim regrets astir,
Lonesome and strange and empty without her.

—Archibald Lampman, in Scribner.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

#### MRS. SLICK INDIGNANT.

"Yes," said Mrs. Slick, "I felt just like aspeakin' out in meetin', but I was a stranger in those parts and I had to swallow my feelin's and listen to all he had to say about us blue noses.

Was he a Nova Scotian? well, yes, I reckon he was, but he didn't do

neither himself or the province much good.

Tell you all about it? well, yes. You see I was astopping with some of Sam's connections up in Newton, near to Boston, and one hot Sunday we went to meetin' as usual, when a stranger stepped out to preach. I can't remember all he said, because I got mad and was a bit flustered, but I'll nover forget some of his talk. It made me boil, and no mistake. Says he, Says he, 'Good people, I am agoin' to ask your aid in my mission down to Nova The people down there are so poor that they seldom can buy a piece of fresh meat, and for the most part they eat salt fish and potatoes In my congregation there is only one man that makes two hundred dollars a year, and I have told them that I would come up here and ask you good people to pay off a debt of six hundred dollars that stands agin our meetin' house.' He said a lot more about the wretched poverty of our people, and worked on the folks' symporthy until some of them began to cry and look sad-like. There was I, a blue nose, right up among Sam's rolations, and I had to est quiet while that man made the people believe that this was a starvation land, and that we wanted help like the heathons. Just think what notions of us those folks must have got.

Arter meetin' was out I walked straight up the isle and says, 'Parson, I don't doubt but you meant right, but why don't you keep your beggin' sermons to home. I don't know you and don't want to, but I'd like to know where

you come from.

'Madam,' says ho, a bit taken aback, 'my station is near to Yarmouth, and I want to pay off that debt.' 'That's all right,' says I, 'but what do you suppose the kind folks of Yarmouth would have said to a sormon like that bein' preached up here? Go home and tell them that they live on fish and potatoes, and that no one can make more than two hundred dollars a year, and I reckou they'll run you out of town before sunset.' Then I left him, because I was agettin' mad, and I was afeared I'd say somethin' wicked.

You don't believe he was a Nova Scotian? Well, I don't know as to that, but I reckon he'll think twice afore repeatin' his slanders about blue

nose poverty in Newton."

### B. C. --

The morning sun wrestled with the dark clouds of night, and one after another overthrew them quickly. Then, as if having given the world a tast of his quality, he showed himself above the tall hills with all the calm dignity of a conquerer. He looked over the forest beneath him, shot his beams here and there between the trees, and flung a large shaft of light into the cave in the chiff which overhangs Elk's Pool. The troglodyte awoke at the cave in the chil which overhangs Elk's Pool. The troglodyle awoke at the first call of the sun. He stirred heavily upon his bed of boughs, and gave a kick to his sleeping partner. "Morning," he said. He did not mean "Good morning," nor any fancy of later invention. He merely announced a fact—that it was time for his female to be up and stirring. The other, tired out with a long day's work, lay yet a while longer, while her shaggy partner rubbed his eyes and realised that his day's work had begun. Then he took notice again of the drowsy figure by his side. "Reset !" he said simply and pointed to the suplicit flooding the entrance. "Beast!" he said simply, and pointed to the sunlight flooding the entrance of the cave. And the female arose and went. At the mouth of the cave

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