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Gifted Amherst Authoress

MANY hearts, vexed to preserve to this Canada of ours its golden wealth of unreclaimed tradition, sighed as people sigh for "a light untimely snuffed," when Grace McLeod Rogers, its saviour in Nova Scotia, put aside her highly successful literary enterprises for the, to her, dearer duties and joys domestic. Those hearts, however, are about to be comforted; for now her four splendid boys are "out of arms," as she puts it—the eldest, a freshman, carried off this year Acadia



GRACE McLEOD ROGERS,
Wearing Her Beloved McLeod Plaid Scarf.

College's trophy for essay writing—Mrs. Rogers' facile pen has been reassumed. This issue of The Courier presents one of its exquisite productions.

Canadian folk-lore is Mrs. Rogers' field, particularly in its Nova Scotian features. Her first volume, "Stories from the Land of Evangeline," appeared when Mrs. Rogers was Grace Dean McLeod. It won immediate recognition, both here and across the waters, as a native product of rare beauty by virtue of both its matter and authorship; its tales being incorporated into the School Readers of three countries, Canada, New England, and Old Scotia, and widely used also as supplementary reading.

Later productions were published from time to time in the best periodicals of Canada and the United States. These were written usually upon request and were characterized always by the reality of subject, the delicacy of diction, and the high pervading spirit which marked that initial series of province tales. Love of the Has-Been, a faculty for research, and a genius for adapting her language to her theme, account for Mrs. Rogers' achievement. And the lapse of years has served only as a mellowing of these powers, to judge from latest examples of her work.

BUT for more than "pennish" reasons might this authoress be proud. She is the daughter of the late A. J. McLeod, distinguished as barrister and author, and is also the niece of R. R. McLeod, the well-known litterateur. Her ancestry includes the Warrens and Hopkins of Mayflower fame and the Dunvegan McLeods of Skye. The Nova Scotia Historical Society claims her as a member—a distinction she is the first woman eligible to enjoy. Also, in company with Miss Marshall Saunders—whose story about her pet goats lately appeared in this journal—she received last June at the hands of Acadia College the honorary degree, M.A. But while she fondly cherishes her family traditions, instanced by her writing when she gave her photograph, "The scarf is my McLeod tartan—I most always wear it about me"; and while she delights in her varied honours as in the symbols of her countrymen's goodwill, modesty of the sincerest type is the crown of this woman's woman-nature. "I am only a woman," somewhere she writes, "not even the much-abused 'new woman' bristling with Academic honours, member of societies legion, and burdened with suffrage, and school bill and tariff, but a simple-minded, old-fashioned one, believing in love, and home, and 'the untrodden ways.'"

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