



## HELEN M. MERRILL

*"Helen M. Merrill is an impressionist. She can transcribe to paper, in prose or verse, a mood of mind or nature with a fidelity truly remarkable. Her work in poetry is singularly vital and wholesome, and has in it in abundance the promise and element of growth. She is equally happy in prose or verse, and is so conscientious in her work that little coming from her pen has about it anything weak or inartistic. Miss Merrill writes as one with the mystery of nature around her and the key to its secrets in her heart. Her gift as a singer is a genuine one."*—Thomas O'Hagan, M.A., Ph.D., in Canadian Essays.

**H**ELEN M. MERRILL is a daughter of the late Edwards Merrill, County Court Judge at Pieton, Ontario, and Caroline (Wright) Merrill. She was born at Napanee, Ont., but was educated in the schools of Pieton and at the Ottawa Ladies College.

Miss Merrill is of French Huguenot extraction, her first American ancestor having landed on this continent in 1633. He was one of the founders of Newbury Port. The family coat-of-arms has the fleur-de-lis on the shield.

Since 1905 Miss Merrill has resided with her mother in Toronto, and for some years

has been a member of the staff of the Ontario Bureau of Archives. In this position her work has been of recognized merit. Having made a special study of "New Ontario," she has contributed several series of valuable articles, topographical and relating to colonizing conditions, etc., on our great north-lands. And in collaboration with Dr. Wilfred Campbell, Miss Merrill has for some time been gathering material for a historical and genealogical work on the United Empire Loyalists of Canada.

At the Sir Isaac Brock Centenary Commemoration at Queenston Heights, Miss