

Book Review.

TWO NEW VOLUMES OF CANADIAN VERSE.

BY THE time this review appears, probably many of the readers of the JOURNAL will have taken a dip into our new volumes of Canadian verse, Frederick George Scott's "Hymn of Empire" and Jean Blewett's "Cornflower." The former collection takes its name from the first poem, the already well-known "Hymn" which Joseph Chamberlain quoted in one of his speeches about a year ago now. It is reminiscent of Kipling's "Recessional," but entirely different in tone, striking a note not of warning but of triumph.

"Strong are we? Make us stronger yet;
Great? Make us greater far.
Our feet Antarctic oceans fret,
Our crown the polar star;
Round earth's wild coasts our batteries speak,
Our highway is the main,
We stand as guardian of the weak,
We burst the oppressor's chain."

The patriotic sentiment finds expression in several other poems, "A Voice from Canada," "The King's Bastier," and so on, one of the finest being the "Inscription on Soldier's Monument, Quebec." Some caviller might be inclined to call the stanza quoted above "such boasting as the Gentiles use," but not the following lines:—

"Not by the power of Commerce, Art, or Pen
Shall our great Empire stand; nor has it stood:
But by the noble deeds of noble men,
Heroic lives, and Heroes' outpoured blood."

The same tendency to hero-worship gives what will appeal to some minds as the best poem in the collection, "The Martyr." It is a vivid picture—"The dark square glimmers 'neath the morning skies,"—and so on. Within the limits of a sonnet the author has expressed just enough and not too much of the terror and beauty of martyrdom. It ends—

"And as the thick smoke wraps him in a cloud
Which rolls to Heaven, his voice rings clear and strong
"Thy Kingdom come:" and so he falls asleep."

The subjects touched upon are varied, but the tone is consistently that of a loyal British subject and Churchman. In a poem addressed "Ad Ecclesiam Anglicanam" he calls her affectionately "Church of our heart and Empire," and in different others he shows a firm religious conviction firmly expressed.

Of a more personal character as the poems "Little Friend's Grave" and "My Little Son," telling of sorrow and bereavement, and "A Sister of Charity" relating the story of a gentle life. And of course when it comes to Nature,