

V.—*The Gaelic Folk-Songs of Canada.*

By ALEXANDER FRASER, Toronto, Ont.

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"Canain aigh nam buadhan oirdheare,
 A b' fharsuing cliù air feadh na h-Eòrpa;
 Bithidh i fathast mar a thoisich,
 Os ceann gach calnnt 'na h-luchair eòlais."

TRANSLATED:—

"Strange mystic powers lie in that tongue,
 Whose praise through Europe wide has rung;
 As 'twas of yore in school and college,
 It shall be first—the key of knowledge."

Two explanatory words may be allowed.

1. By Gaelic is meant only that branch of the Keltic language whose home and chief habitat are the Highlands of Scotland.

2. The field. It has been estimated that there is about a quarter of a million people in Canada who understand and speak the Gaelic language.

No people are more devoted to their native language than the Scottish Kelts. They have cherished it and retained it through centuries of struggle and vicissitude, as a precious heritage, and in the freer atmosphere of to-day, the old vernacular holds its own against the encroachments of the language of commerce with equal success as in the olden time it did against the prejudices of alien educators and hostile lawgivers. It has come down from sire to son on the plains of Canada with almost equal purity as in the glens and straths of Caledonia.

"'Si Iabhair Padric 'n Innise Fall na Rìogh,
 'S an falghe caomh sin Colum nàomtha 'n I."

TRANSLATED:—

"'Twas it that Patrick spoke in Inis-Fayle,
 And saintly Colum in Iona's Isle."

The printed literature of the Scottish Gael is not extensive, but a Gaelic literature there is, which will compare favourably with the literature of many other countries, and, if taken with that of its kindred branches, is of very respectable proportions indeed. Probably four-fifths of it is poetry. The Kelts are a poetical people; the clansman lived in an atmosphere of poetry and romance; every village had its bard, every family its ready singer. The very vicissitudes of the people