

one prose writing. Sophia Mary Hall married William Hall, a man who became a Supreme Court Justice. He also was a Loyalist descended from one of the founders of St. John's City.

Charles G. D. Roberts and Bliss Carman's youth was born a year earlier, and one has but to glance through their books to see that they were much together as boys, and that in company as young men they explored the shores, streams and woods of their native province in birch canoe trips. Some of these expeditions must have been strenuous, according to the lyrical record. I know that Roberts had great physical strength and activity. Carman in his younger days looked like a Greek athlete.

Both cousins attended the same school, and both came under the remarkable influence of the same teacher, who, perhaps fortunately for them, happened to be a cultured man of letters, as well as an ardent lover of open-air life. There is practically no doubt, and this is supported by Bliss Carman himself, that it was the influence of this teacher who decided the future career of both boys. This teacher's name was Dr. George R. Parkin, and he will doubtless be remembered by scores of living New Brunswickers. Bliss Carman has gratefully acknowledged his debt to Dr. Parkin in an affectionate dedicatory preface to his brilliant volume of essays called "The Kinship of Nature." It is too long to quote entire, but the nature of their relationship is sufficiently revealed in the following: "Those were the days when we were all young together, whether at Greek or football, tramping for Mayflowers through the early spring woods, paddling in the river in intoxicating Junes, or snow-shoeing across bitter drifts in the perishing December wind—always under the leadership of your indomitable ardour. In that golden age we first realized the Kinship of Nature, whose help is forever unfailing, and whose praise is never outsung."

In 1878 Bliss Carman won the school medal for Greek and Latin, and then he entered the University of New Brunswick, where he had a brilliant career—B.A. Gold Medalist, 1881; M.A., 1884; LL.D. Honorary, 1901. He had taken high honors in both Classics and Mathematics, and he pursued these subjects, together with Philosophy, in a post-graduate course at the University of Edinburgh. Returning to Canada he seemed to hesitate apparently in choosing a profession, as he successively taught school, studied law, and practised civil engineering, before he made up his mind to take post-graduate work at Harvard University, in English and Philosophy. He states that he cherished the idea of becoming a teacher of English literature, but the notion doesn't seem to have been strong enough to survive. As a matter of fact he did something quite different. An opening presented itself for editorial work in New York as literary editor of the New York Independent, an influential weekly paper. He was later connected with the tiny magazine, the Chap Book, of Chicago, which he probably originated. He soon relinquished this, however, and engaged in literary work in Europe. His experience in old-world cities must have been vastly useful to him; it gave him a wider outlook on life and nature. As it was, his equipment was an ideal one for a writer. He was a fine scholar, he was widely travelled in the old world and the new; and he had studied deeply the philosophies and the sciences of civilization.

Bliss Carman's first poem to attract universal attention was "Low Tide on Grand Pre," written in Nova Scotia, and published in the "Atlantic Monthly." It was soon republished in Toronto in the Canadian series of booklets. The first volume of poems which obtained its title from this single poem was published in New York in 1893, and was immediately successful. It was reprinted in Cambridge and Chicago the following year.

Since 1894 Bliss Carman's literary activity has been constant and splendidly fruitful, amounting to some fourteen

volumes of verse and four or more volumes of prose, chiefly essays and criticism. In the bibliographical check-list of first editions of his works there are in all eighty-eight items, some of them are only broad sheets of single poems, a few of which seem never to have been reprinted. These last afford a splendid chance for the patient book-collector. They are rare, and some day will be extremely valuable. They may be found today; a few years hence they will be past praying for.

Carman's latest volume of lyrics, "April Airs," was published three years ago. The little volume contains some of his most beautiful and characteristic work, and the whole is a rich poetic achievement. "Low Tide on Grand Pre" was followed by three volumes of the Vagabondia series, and in 1895, "Behind the Arras"; in 1897, "Ballads of Lost Haven"; in 1902 was published the splendid "Ode on the Coronation of King Edward VII." The same year appeared "From the Book of Myths." In 1903 came "The Word of St. Kavins," and "A Vision of Sappho," and in 1904, "Songs of the Sea Children," the prose work, "The Kinship of Nature" and "Songs From a Northern Garden." In 1905 came "The Poetry of Life"; in 1909 "The Rough Rider and Other Poems." This does not include all of Carman's work down to 1916, the date of "April Airs," but the exceptions are of minor importance.

In 1920 he issued a privately printed and very beautiful "Open Letter" in verse, with quite a long preface in prose, dealing with his illness, dated from "the Adirondacks."

The poet has fully recovered from this serious illness which laid him low some two years ago, and is himself again. He is publishing this year, through a Toronto publisher, a very pretty volume made up of poems from his three latest books—"The Rough Rider," "Echoes From Vagabondia," and "April Airs"—together with a number of more recent poems which have not before been issued in book form. The poems
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