

Poetry.

THE DECAYING HOMESTEAD.  
BY THOMAS MACKELLAR.

A PENSIVENESS of feeling  
Unbidden comes stealing  
Over me  
When I see  
An old house going  
To decay,—  
The wild grass growing  
In the way—  
The window shutters hanging  
Half awry,  
Now creaking and now banging  
When the gale sweeps by,—  
The shatter'd panes  
Hospatter'd by the rains—  
The empty rooms  
As silent as the tombs—  
The dusty floor—  
The spider weaving in the door—  
The awfulness of desolation  
Pervading the habitation—  
While all things wear  
A comfortless, unwelcome air.

The family gathering no more is there,  
Cheerful and calm;  
No morning prayer  
Nor evening psalm;  
No joyous maiden's voice is heard  
Outcarolling the mocking bird—  
No children's laugh;  
No old man leaning on his staff,  
Nor matron there is seen  
Before the door at eventide serene.  
No neighbours come to chat  
Of this and that,  
And for old friendship's sake,  
The Souchong cup partake.  
But silence and desolation  
Pervade the habitation,  
And all things wear  
A comfortless unfriendly air.

Where is the human hand  
That here abode?  
Have all departed to the land  
Whose only road  
Is through death's dim domain?  
Vain the inquiry—vain!  
There is not one to tell  
How the old family fell;  
Pass'd out of mind—  
Forgotten quite—  
The record left behind  
Is blank as night.  
Gone to a world afar,  
Perchance on high  
From some resplendent star  
They turn a wandering eye  
To their old homes below,  
And love Him with intenser love  
Who beckoned them from wo  
To an immortal home above,  
Where holy exultation  
Pervades their habitation,  
And all things wear  
A heavenly and glorious air.

R. M. S. CANADA.

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Feb. 9.

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Jan. 26, 1855.

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