

Pleasant stanzas are these, this and those that follow, charming the ear with their melodious cadence. And yet Miss Cary is not a great poetess. She has nothing in common with those lofty thoughts which

—"Seize upon the mind; arrest and search
And shake it; bow the tall soul as by the wind;
Brush over it like rivers over reeds
Which quiver in the current,"

But there are happy fancies, little shreds of sunshine, charming chords of melody, that fall into the human heart and abide there with perennial freshness.

The most noticeable of the multitude of Christmas books is Mr. Thornbury's "*Two Centuries of Song*."* It is a choice collection of the most sparkling and graceful verse written within the last two hundred years. Altogether it is a delightful volume, replete with those little bird-flights of poetry, that linger longest in the memory of a people.

We confess to have read the "*The Gayworthys*" with more than ordinary satisfaction. Nor have we been less repayed by the perusal of "*A Summer in Leslie Goldthwaite's Life*."† The plot is simple and natural; and the style, always pure and lively, is sometimes fervid and brilliant. Leslie Goldthwaite is a girl brought up after a good and sensible way, but frequently placed in contact with wealthier and more fashionable people. To her young mind the actions of these people "*à la mode*" are an enigma. And this enigma she endeavours to solve by mastering the discrepancy between foliage and fruit, between the radiance of true worth and the false glitter of elegant life.

We have received a memoir of Dr. Mountain, the late Lord Bishop of Quebec.‡ It is accompanied by an appendix containing a miscellaneous collection of prayers, maxims and verses written by Dr. Mountain during intervals of relaxation from the severe labours of a missionary bishop. Some of the poems are extremely tender and musical. The following stanza has the ring of true poetry:

"How through the heart will sweep
With hidden spell and strong,
Those notes of sadness deep,
That swell of mournful song!
O still the charm prolong:
*It touches on some tender string,
Akin to pain when pleasures spring.*"

Besides the personal life of the Bishop, this memoir affords a valuable history of the early progress of the Church in Lower Canada, and an account of the foundation of the University of Bishop's College. But we must forego what would be to us the greatest of pleasures, and reserve this excellent work for a more lengthy notice in our next number.

* *Two Centuries of Song*. Edited by Walter Thornbury. London: Sampson, Low & Co. 1866.

† *A Summer in Leslie Goldthwaite's Life*. London: Sampson, Low & Co. 1866.

‡ *A Memoir of George Jehoshaphat Mountain, D. P., D. C. L., late Bishop of Quebec*. Compiled by his son Armine W. Mountain, M. A., Incumbent of St. Michael's Chapel, Quebec. Montreal: John Lovell. 1866.