

a little clique of Unitarians, whose style of education separated them from the influence of the common school. Take Longfellow, Emerson and Holmes as instances, and note that this last is almost the only choice and tasteful American prose-writer who has been able to secure the attention of the American public. He has not been obliged to adopt the style of Artemus Ward, Josh Billings *et hoc genus omne*. One might fancy that Eugene Field might have written better with a better environment.

In Canada our conditions are very much the same, and we may fairly say that our common schools, useful though they be, are not necessarily the only gateways to purely literary work. It is therefore permissible, to say the least of it, to acquire knowledge without going to school, if a person can do so.

No apology should be needed for the publication of these verses. They are published in the hope that they may give pleasure to the few who are interested in Canadian poetry. It is recognized that the field of readers in Canada is necessarily restricted. People are occupied with the practical side of life, and newspaper literature is the only kind that has a ready and extensive sale. It is not supposed or expected, therefore, that this booklet will attain any great publicity.

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