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FOR some years Canadians have resented fiercely the representation of their country as "a land of ice and snow," or as the scene of Indian warfare. But, as the varied life of the nine provinces develops, the Canadian of the East realises the picturesqueness of the early Western life as literary material and ceases to grumble over the stories and pictures that frequently prove misleading to our English friends. It takes a Jane Austen to reveal the interests of the common-place and so far Canada has not produced a novelist of that class.

For instance, such a story as W. A. Fraser's "The Offcasting of Niche-mous" forms a Canadian counterpart to such Kipling tales as "Without Benefit of Clergy" and "Georgy Porgy." The dweller in a small inland town reads with quickening pulse of such a land as this:

"In the mouth of the Pass, nestling among the grass-covered foot hills like a string of blue-green jade stones, lies a crescent of water, delicately slender as a new moon—the Kootenay Lakes. In the lakes swim the gold-shimmered rainbow trout, almost the size of a giant salmon. When the south-travelling sun bends to its autumn sleep over the snow-crested hills to the west at even-tide, elk and caribou and bears and gray wolf steal down from the spruce forests, which lie like a velvet mantle on the breasts of the uplands, to the empurpled waters and drink in leisurely content, for it is far from the leather-scented trail of man."

We have become so accustomed to regarding Mr. Carman as a poet that it is with something of a shock that we come across an essay over his signature. We spend the first few moments in wondering why the lines do not scan. His prose style, as exemplified in "The Kinship of Nature," is vigorous and picturesque. In a recent article, "Designer and Builder," Mr. Carman displays a keen discernment of the qualities that make for symmetry. Most of us remember the lines of O'Reilly:

"For a dreamer lives forever
But a toiler dies in a day."

In his analysis Mr. Carman tries to unite the best in doer and dreamer to form the ideal citizen and thus defines him:

"It is easy to build castles in the air; one may spend whole days in that seductive occupation; and it is almost equally easy to lay one brick upon another without giving thought to anything except the mortar between them. But he is master of the world who can both plan and achieve, who keeps his plans within the bounds of the achievable, and brings his achievements up to the requirements of his plans. His castles are projected in Spain, but he sees them reproduced perhaps after long years and perdurable patience, from the solid ground before his eyes."

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