

trated annuals. It were full time that this hurtful distinction between reading-books and gift-books disappeared; and that in their reading-books children were supplied with those airy forms and fancies for which their minds hunger. The world is growing older and growing wiser; even in strict scientific research we have come all at once to discover the vast consequence of owning an active imagination! In Northern Europe all this is well understood. A tender care for the old folk-tales has yielded all round the shores of the Baltic and in the adjoining lands a wealth of the most graceful and wholesome flowers. In gathering for this volume a few blossoms from this beautiful flora, we have taken Krilof to represent Russia; Topelius, Finland; Gustafsson, Sweden; Björnson, Norway; and Andersen, Denmark. The winter stories and amusements of Northern Europe vividly picture our Canadian home-life; and, when gentler airs are stirring, the glowing tints and the resinous fragrance of the Baltic forests are once more unmistakably those of our noble pine-woods.

We have not slighted our native Indian folk-lore, which was with loving care collected by Schoolcraft and his romantic Indian bride; and which so soon afterwards yielded to Longfellow his *Hiawatha*.

Nor have we forgotten our young Canadian Literature; from Sangster, Heavysege, and others, we have thankfully gathered graceful and fragrant blossoms.

TORONTO, *1st June 1882.*

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