

Our Canadian Poets.

UNDER THE SNOW.

Over the mountains, under the snow,
 Lieth a valley, cold and low,
 'Neath a white, immovable pall
 Desolate, dreary, soulless all,
 And soundless, save when the wintry blast
 Sweeps with funeral music past.

Yet was that valley not always so,
 For I trod its summer paths long ago;
 And I gathered flowers of fairest dyes
 Where now the snow-drift heaviest lies;
 And I drank from rills that with murmuring song
 Wandered in golden light along,
 Through bowers whose ever fragrant air,
 Was heavy with perfume of flow'rets fair,
 Through cool, green meadows, where all day long
 The wild bee droned his voluptuous song;
 While over all shone the eye of love,
 In the violet-tinted heavens above.

And through that valley ran veins of gold,
 And the rivers o'er beds of amber rolled;
 There were pearls in the white sand thickly sown,
 And rocks that diamond crested shone;
 All richest fruitage—all rarest flowers—
 All sweetest music of summer bowers—
 All sounds the softest—all sights most fair,
 Made earth a Paradise everywhere.

Over the mountains, under the snow,
 Lieth that valley cold and low,
 Where came no slowly consuming blight,
 But the snow swept silently down at night;
 And when the morning looked forth again,
 The seal of silence was on the plain;
 And fount and forest, and bower and stream,
 Were hidden all from his pallid beam.
 And there, deep-hidden under the snow,
 Is buried the wealth of the long ago,
 Pearls and diamonds, veins of gold,
 Priceless treasures of wealth untold,
 Harps of wonderful music stilled
 While yet the air was with music filled—
 Hands that stirre' the resounding string
 To melodies such as angels sing—
 Faces radiant with smile and tear,
 That bent enraptured the sounds to hear—
 And high, calm foreheads, and earnest eyes,
 That came and went beneath sunset skies.

There they are lying under the snow,
 And the winds moan over them, sad and low,
 Pale, still faces that smile no more,
 Calm, closed eyelids, whose light is o'er;
 Silent lips that will never again