

appreciative reading public of the Dominion will hail with pleasure the advent of another volume from Carroll Ryan's pen. Many of the shorter poems, such as *At Last, Lines on leaving and on arriving in Canada, the Death of the Old Year, &c.*, are perfect gems.

SONGS OF A WANDERER should be in every library in Canada.

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### ABERDEEN AND ITS FOLK.\*

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REMINISCENCES always afford pleasant and instructive reading. There is an irresistible charm about them not easily removed. Reverently we dwell upon recollections of the past, and, as our thoughts revert, we fondly linger on certain events of our early life more endeared to us than others by some pleasant association. When one leaves the place of his nativity, and goes to other climes to seek his fortune, his thoughts, more than once, take a retrospective glance, and in fancy, he returns to the scenes of his youth. Once more he mingles with his fellows, the same boyish sports and pastimes are enacted o'er again, old friends are visited, but not always seen. Death has robbed him of some, others have left the dear old spot. A new generation has sprung up, and "Home" is no longer the genial, hallowed place it was. Strangers now occupy the familiar hearth-stones, the kind, cordial greeting of our forefathers, with a hearty "gie's us your haun' my lad," has vanished, and a cold, reserved, almost haughty air reigns in its place. Still we have a love for home which years cannot efface.

The *brochure* before us is an admirable little history of Aberdeen, from the 20th to the 50th year of the present century. It is written in an easy style, and abounds in fine glowing passages. Lively and amusing anecdote, and judicious selections from the poets, too, are happily blended. We can hardly tell which one of the five chapters is the superior. All are good. "School and College days," is a beautiful "bit of writing." The author's sketches of his school masters, and of his College Professors are life-like and real. On this subject the "Son of Bon-Accord," seems to dwell with grateful admiration. Some pretty clever stories are here introduced, mostly from the author's own personal experience. They serve to set forth the peculiarities of the different *Dominies*, who, from time to time, ruled the educational establishments of the "braif town."

In "the Family Circle," we have several ancient Scotch proverbs and quaint sayings, given in the original dialect, and explained in English.

The "Clergy in Aberdeen" is the most pains-taking paper in the lot. The eccentricities of the different preachers are vividly held up to the light, and impartially reviewed. We are well pleased with this chapter and recommend it to all who like a polished and graceful style.

"Notable Citizens" and "Street Venders, Mendicants, &c.," are full of comic and sentimental stories. As a recent writer remarked, "the bathos and pathos are happily connected by a subtle link."