

be distinctly traced the courage and heroism of man borne up by the boundless hope and love of woman. Together these twain fronted the primeval forest and tamed it to their purpose and wants. Girdled with the mighty wilderness in all its multiplying grandeur, the soul, though bowed by the hardships of the day, was stirred by the simple but sublime music of the forest, and drank in something of the glory and beauty of nature around. Poetic spirits set in the very heart of the forest sang of the varying and shifting aspects of nature—now of the silver brooklet whispering at the door, now of the crimson-clad maple of autumn-tide, now of the mystical and magical charms of that sweet season "the Summer of all Saints."

Two names there are of women writers who deserve special and honourable mention in connection with the early literature of Canada. These are Susanna Moodie, one of the gifted Strickland Sisters, and Rosanna Eleanor Leprohon. Mrs. Moodie's four sisters—Elizabeth, Agnes, Jane, and Mrs. Traill—the latter yet living at the age of ninety, the *doyenne* of Canadian literature—have all made worthy contributions to the literature of the day; the "Lives of the Queens of England," by Agnes Strickland, being regarded as one of the ablest and most exhaustive works of the kind ever published. Mrs. Moodie lived chiefly near the town of Peterboro', Ontario, and may be justly regarded as the poet and chronicler of pioneer days in Ontario. Her best-known works are her volume of poems and "Roughing it in the Bush." In her verse beats the strong pulse of nature aglow with the wild and fragrant gifts of glen and glade. Mrs. Moodie published also a number of novels, chief among them being "Flora Lindsay," "Mark Hurdlestone," "The Gold Worshipper," "Geoffrey Moncton," and "Dorothy Chance."

Mrs. Leprohon was, like Mrs. Moodie, poet and novelist. She did perhaps more than any other Canadian writer to foster and promote the growth of a national literature. In her novels she aimed at depicting society in Canada prior to and immediately after the conquest. One of her novels, "Antoinette de Mirecourt," is regarded by many as one of the best Canadian novels yet written. Simplicity and grace mark her productions in verse. Mrs. Leprohon lived in Montreal, and did her best work in the "fifties."

A woman writer of great merit was Isabella Valancey Crawford. Her death, which occurred some ten years ago, was a distinct loss to Canadian literature. Miss Crawford's poetic gift was eminently lyrical, full of music, colour, and originality. She published but one volume, "Old Spook's Pass," "Malcolm's Katie," and other poems, which is royal throughout with the purple touch of genius. No Canadian woman has yet appeared quite equal to Miss Crawford in poetic endowment.

Down by the sea, where the versatile and gifted pen of Joseph Howe and the quaint humour of "Sam Slick" stirred and charmed as with a wizard's wand the people's hearts, the voice of woman was also heard in the very dawn of Canadian life and letters. Miss Clotilda Jennings and the two sisters, Mary E. and Sarah Herbert, glorified their country in poems worthy of the literary promise which their young and ardent hearts were struggling to fulfil.

Another whose name will be long cherished in the literary annals of Nova Scotia is Mary Jane Katzmann Lawson, who died in Halifax, March, 1890. On her mother's side Mrs. Lawson was a kinswoman of Prescott, the historian. She was a voluminous contributor to the periodicals of the day and was herself editor for two years of the Halifax Monthly Magazine. Her poems, written too hurriedly, are uneven and in some instances lack wholly the fashioning power of true inspiration. When her lips were touched, however, with the genuine honey of Hymettus she sang well, as in such poems as "Some Day," "Song of the Morning," and "Song of the Night." In the opinion of many the work of Mrs. Lawson as an historian is superior to her work as a poet. Considering, however, the industry of her pen and the general quality of its output, Mrs. Lawson deserves a place among the foremost women writers of her native province.

There passed away last year near Niagara Falls, Ontario, a gifted woman who did not a little in the days of her strength for the fostering of Canadian letters. Miss Louisa Murray, author of a poem of genuine merit, "Merlin's Cave," and two novels, "The Cited Curate," and "The Settlers of Long Arrow," will not soon be forgotten as one of the pioneer women writers of Canada.

The venerable and kindly form of Catharine Parr Traill happily remains with us yet as a link between the past and present in Canadian literature. Nor has her intellect become dimmed or childish. Although ninety years nestle in the benediction of her silvery hair her gifts of head and heart remain still vigorous, as is evidenced in the two works, "Pearls and Pebbles," and "Cot and Cradle Stories," which have come from her pen within the past two years. For more than sixty years this clever and scholarly woman, worthy indeed of the genius of the Strickland family, has been making contributions to Canadian literature from the wealth of her richly stored and cultivated mind. Now a tale, now a study of the wild flowers and shrubs in the Canadian forest, occupies her busy pen. Mrs. Traill is indeed great in the versatility of her gifts, the measure of her achievements, the crowning length of her years, and the sweetness of her life and character.

Like Desdemona in the play of "Othello," Mrs. J. Sadlier, the veteran novelist, now a resident of Canada, owes a double allegiance—to the city of Montreal and to the city of New York. The author of "The Blakes and Flanagans," and many other charming Irish stories has been, however, living for some years past in this country, and while a resident of the Canadian metropolis, has helped to enrich the literature of Canada with the product of her richly dowered pen. Last year Notre Dame University, Indiana, conferred on Mrs. Sadlier the Laetare Medal, as a recognition of her gifts and services as a Catholic writer.

Two of the strongest women writers in Ontario are Agnes Maule Machar and Sarah Anne Curzon. Miss Machar possesses a strong subjective faculty, joined to a keen sense of the artistic. The gift of her pen is both critical and creative, and her womanly and sympathetic mind is found in the van of every movement among Canadian women that has for its purpose a deeper and broader enlightenment based upon principles of wisdom, charity, and love. Miss Machar is both a versatile and productive writer, novel, poem, and critique flowing from her pen in bright succession, and with a grace and ease that betokens the lifelong student and artist. An undertone of intense Canadian patriotism is found running through all her work. Under the *nom de plume* of "Fidelis" she has contributed to nearly all the leading Canadian and American magazines. Her two best novels are entitled "For King and Country," and "Lost and Won."

Mrs. Curzon has a virility of style and a security of touch that indicate at the same time a clear and robust mind. Her best and longest poem, "Laura Secord"—dramatic in spirit and form—has about it a masculinity and energy found in the work of no other Canadian woman. Mrs. Curzon is a woman of strong character and principles, and her writings share in the strength of her judgments. Perhaps she may be best described as one who has the intellect of a man wedded to the heart of a woman.

Quite a unique writer among Canadian women is Frances Harrison, better known in literary circles by her pen-name of "Seranus." Mrs. Harrison has a dainty and distinct style all her own, and her gift of song is both original and true. She has made a close study of themes which have their root in the French life of Canada, and her "half French heart" eminently qualifies her for the delicacy of her task. Indeed, it is doubtful if any other woman writer of to-day can handle so successfully that form of poetry known as the villanelle. Her book of poems, "Pine, Rose and Fleur de Lis," has met with much favour at the hands of critics, while her prose sketches and magazine critiques prove her to be a woman of exquisite taste and judgment in all things literary.

There are two women writers in Nova Scotia who deserve more than a mere conventional notice. By the gift and grace of their pens Marshall Saunders and Grace Dean MacLeod Rogers have won a large audience far beyond their native land. Miss Saunders is best known as the author of "Beautiful Joe," a story which won the five-hundred-dollar prize offered by the American Humane Society. So popular has been this humane tale that when published by a Philadelphia firm it reached the enormous sale of fifty thousand in eighteen months. "Beautiful Joe" has already been translated into Swedish, German, and Japanese. The work is full of genius, heart, and insight. Other works by Miss Saunders are a novelette entitled "My Spanish Sailor" and a novel "Come to Halifax."

Mrs. Rogers, while widely different from Miss Saunders in her gifts as a writer, has been equally as successful in her