

seething with strange ingredients, we realize that the educational authorities in the United States were quite right in making the primer of the new citizenship as direct and forcible as possible.

Mrs. George H. Smith of St. Catharines, the national educational secretary of the I. O. D. E., who has made a tour of the West in behalf of this Memorial Fund and in support of a patriotic educational propaganda, gives a most satisfactory report of the response to her appeal: The overflowing attendance at our schools this autumn shows how eager is Young Canada to gain every advantage that school or college can give. The vast debt we owe to those who gave their lives in their country's service can be discharged no more creditably than by flinging open the gates of opportunity to their children.

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A WRITER OF INDIAN TALES

IN giving us her two volumes of Indian stories, Miss Margaret Bemister, of Winnipeg, has materially enriched Canadian literature. Just what the collection and adaptation of these stories cost in time and labour can best be appreciated when one realizes that many of them had never been in print; they were given the author by trappers, missionaries, fire-rangers and a few by Indians, themselves. And even those already incorporated in collections had to be sorted and selected—most of them entirely re-written, for the scientific form in which they had been treated was not at all adequate to Miss Bemister's requirements.

The task she had set herself seemed, though unique, so arduous, that my curiosity was piqued, and I set about discovering what ever led a young girl without any particular reason for choosing Indian lore, to attempt so vast an undertaking. . . .

As a child she loved to tell stories. She told what she read, and when these gave out, she invented more.



Miss Margaret Bemister,
A Canadian writer of Indian tales

Being one of a large family, Margaret Bemister rarely lacked an opportunity to gratify herself in this respect. There was always a little group of children to be kept quiet and fairy tales never failed to be a magic muffler. Greek, Roman and Norse mythology varied the simpler tales and when the young story-teller exchanged her home circle for a class in a school room, these were most often called for at "story time".

Miss Bemister had such a charming way of telling stories that she began to attract notice and an appreciative friend suggested her writing them—history tales and myths, for the most part—exactly as she had made her adaptations, and submitting them to a publisher. They were returned, but not with discouraging indifference. On the contrary. In the collection there was an Indian legend and this had so