

6 CANADIAN POEMS AND LAYS.

CANADA TO ENGLAND.¹

ANONYMOUS.

MOTHER of many prosperous lands,
Thy children in this far-off West,—
Seeing that vague and undefined
A cloud comes up to mar our rest ;
Fearing that busy tongues, whose speech
Is mischief, may have caused a breach,
And frayed the delicate links which bind
Our people each to each,—
With loving hearts and outstretched hands
Send greeting leal and kind.

Heed not the teachings of a school
Of shallow sophists who would part
The outlying members of thy rule ;
Who fain would lop, with felon stroke,
The branches of our English oak,
And, wronging the great English heart,
Would deem her honour cheaply sold
For higher prices on the mart,
And increased hoard of gold.

What though a many thousand miles
Of boisterous waters ebb and flow
Between us and the favoured Isles,—
The " inviolate Isles " which boast thy sway !

¹ Appeared in *New Dominion Monthly*, 1863, with a statement that it had had a wide circulation "some years ago." Internal evidence shows it to have been written about 1861.