

# The Rockwood Review.

## THE ADVANCE OF THE ARMY.

### I

In the March sunshine, storm and shade  
Brave soldiers are afoot;—  
The grasses thrust a shining blade,—  
The hawthorn hedges shoot.  
In files along the river banks,  
And halting in mid-stream,  
Tall rushes push their serried ranks,  
With lances all agleam.

### 2

White tents of lilies in the sedge  
Show where the camp is set,  
And purple flags float past the edge  
Of spear and bayonet,—  
And scarlet-coated columbine,—  
(Four gold horns in a row),  
You almost see the colours shine,  
And hear the trumpets blow.

### 3

Along the tilted arrow-heads  
That rim the reedy shore,  
Far out its green battalion spreads,—  
Its leaders go before;—  
While back and forth, and in and out  
The russet-belted bee  
Goes on his wavering lines about,  
The Captain's orderly.

### 4

The grackle in red shoulder straps,  
As sentinel in line,  
With harsh voice halts intruding steps  
To give the countersign.  
Shrill bugle-notes sound reveille,  
These mornings of March weather,  
And captain robin's company  
Turns out in squads together.

### 5

And chaplain crow, from his high perch,  
With grave and solemn airs,  
Announces the parade to church,  
Or the call to morning prayers,—  
And so with banners and with drums,  
Across the wide frontier,  
The army of the springtime comes,—  
Crowned victor of the year.

—K. S. McL.