

### HIRAM LADD SPENCER.

It is the fate of many men of undoubted literary genius to fail of that public recognition which is their due. Had Hiram Ladd Spencer devoted his attention to literature as earnestly as did some of his great New England contemporaries, his fame, if it did not equal theirs, would at least have been secure, and his name inscribed upon the honor roll of an era which produced writers who are today without legitimate successors. In April of this year (1909), Mr. Spencer will have attained the age of four-score, and at no time has he written articles of greater human interest than those brief sketches contributed during the last year or so by the Ingle Nook Philosopher of Kennebecasis Bay to the daily press of St. John. In these he lives in the past, and with the skill of an artist whose hand has not lost its cunning, paints word pictures, which may indeed present a sombre line, but which possess a singular fascination for the thoughtful and receptive mind. The imagination of the poet, tempered by the knowledge and experience of a long and somewhat troubled life, invests his writings with a never-failing charm. He is, moreover, master of a style that is marked by simplicity and purity of diction, influenced doubtless by long and close familiarity with the work of the great masters of the English tongue. Mr. Spencer has, withal, a keen sense of humor, and presents phases of character and quaint situations with a delicacy of touch that is altogether delightful. It is greatly to be regretted that so much of his work has been fugitive, and somewhat carelessly thrown into the mass of words that makes up modern journalism. New Bruns-