

publications. His aim in this volume is to find a new theme which will be of interest to common humanity. In his sonnets he treats the most prosy objects in such a way as to make them appear strikingly poetic.

Of his lyrical poems, "The Silver-thaw" is a delicate piece of melody. Its lines are pleasingly original, as for instance :

In reawakened courses
The brooks rejoiced the land ;
We dreamed the spring's shy forces
Were gathering close at hand,
The dripping buds were stirred
As if the sap had heard
The long desired persuasion
Of April's soft command.

The volume concludes with an ode for the centenary of Shelly's birth. This is perhaps the most artistic poem that Roberts has ever written. It is a masterpiece of diction. Every word is chosen with unique power. The predominant beauty of the poem lies in the perfect harmony of the thought with the rich music of the words.

Another who has reached the dignity of a recognized master of his art is Archibald Lampman. His book, "Among the Millet," has gained a wide reputation for its author. One's first impression of Mr. Lampman's poetry is a delightful sense of its freshness. The turn of thought is original, the phrase choice and unhackneyed, and throughout the volume we have a continuous revelation of beauty. Let us take a passage from his "Midsummer Night:"

Far off beyond the westward hills outrolled
Darker than thou, more still, more dreamy
even,

The golden moon leans in the dusky
heaven,
And under her, one star, a point of gold.

The simplest theme, as well as the noblest tempts his facile pen. He skilfully assimilates the most trivial details of a landscape into his finest descriptions, thus producing vivid pictures from material which seems utterly void of inspiration. He also has the secret of discovering the most charming resemblances and analogies, as for instance :

The daisies that endowed,
With stems so short they cannot see, up-
bear
Their innocent sweet eyes distressed and
stare
Like children in a crowd.

Passing from the descriptive to the more purely didactic poems we are filled with astonishment at the maturity of thought and austere morality of principle to be found in a man so young. These poems are chiefly the result of long and lonely contemplations, and are in consequence uniformly serious and meditative. Let us take his poem on "Knowledge:"

What is more large than knowledge and
more sweet ;
Knowledge of thoughts and deeds, of rights
and wrongs,
Of passions and of beauties and of songs ;
Knowledge of life ; to feel its great heart
beat
Through all the soul upon her crystal seat ;
To see, to feel, and evermore to know ;
To till the old world's wisdom till it grow
A garden for the wandering of our feet.
Oh ! for a life of leisure and broad hours,
To think and dream, to put away small
things,
This world's perpetual leaguer of dull
naughts ;