

substituting a better word for one that spoils the construction of a sentence. Perhaps a poet's proofs should be read by a man who is not a poet. He would read them in a matter of fact way, and more easily discover the grammatical errors, and even the mistakes in the number of feet. As a whole, the book is one of which a young country may be proud, and we shall give a few specimens from it, without dipping our pen in the gall of the critic.

In "Hesperus" there is this fine passage :—

"Far back in the infant ages,
 Before the eras stamped their autographs
 Upon the stony records of the Earth ;
 Before the burning incense of the Sun
 Rolled up the interlucant space,
 Brightening the black abyss ;
 Ere the Recording Angel's tears
 Were shed for man's transgressions :
 A Seraph, with a face of light,
 And hair like Heaven's golden atmosphere ;
 Blue eyes serene in their beautitude,
 God-like in their tranquility ;
 Features as perfect as God's dearest work,
 And stature worthy of her race,
 Lived high exalted in the sacred sphere
 That floated in a sea of harmony
 Translucent as pure crystal, or the light
 That flowed unceasing, from this higher world
 Unto the spheres beneath it."

In "The Wine of Song," our poet well describes his own feelings :—

"Within Fancy's Halls I sit and quaff
 Rich draughts of the Wine of Song ;
 And I drink, and drink,
 To the very brink
 Of delerium wild and strong,
 Till I lose all sense of the outer world,
 And see not the human throng."

This is a very good state of mind in which to write poems ; but a bad one to read proof.

The "Plains of Abraham" is a good memento of that well fought field. Here is a verse :—

"I saw the broad claymore
 Flash from its scabbard o'er
 The ranks that quailed and shuddered at the close and fierce attack :
 When victory gave the word,
 Then Scotland drew the sword,
 And with arm that never faltered, drove the brave defenders back."

In "The Rapid" is a verse which Mr. Sangster could not have written without having himself run a rapid :—

"More swiftly careering,
 The wild rapid nearing,
 They dash down the stream like a terrified steed ;
 The surges delight them,
 No terrors affright them,
 Their voices keep pace with their quickening speed :