

The Vicar of Wakefield unites in himself three characters, a minister, a husbandman and the father of a family. Love of God and of his fellow-man is the guiding impulse of his life, and his greatest comfort is drawn from futurity. His trust, guilelessness, sincerity, active interest in church doctrine, his insight into human nature and his sympathy for the fallen are striking features of his character as a clergyman. "He is drawn as ready to teach and ready to obey, as simple in affluence and majestic in adversity." His life as a husbandman and father gives strong evidence of this contented happy disposition, of the wide range of his sympathies, of his bright humor, but above all, of his great love for his family and his fellow-men.

The Vicar is by no means perfect, and we are glad of it. He is certainly too credulous and easy-going. All his intercourse with Squire Thornton goes to show this. He lacks animation and one might say, is of too contented a disposition. His life, although it has a definite aim, is almost void of method or decision.

With all his faults, we love him and feel that he is flesh and blood like ourselves. His womanly gentleness, simple trust, gay humor and shiftlessness stand out in striking contrast to the strength, sternness, restless activity and well-ordered method of Pope's ideal; but the latter is made up of maxims whose truth is yet to be tested, whilst the Vicar had the trials and temptations of every day life, which, however slight, serve to bring out the virtues and failings of man, and to strengthen and purify them.

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Canadian Poets.

(Paper read at the Spring Festival of the d'Youville Circle,
Rideau Street Convent, May 30th, 1905.)

Nothing could be more appropriate to a Spring Festival than these readings from our Canadian poets. Their work seems the very embodiment of the Spring spirit, so full are the poems of enthusiasm, of the joy of living, of the promise of fulfilment. For a nation so young in years and achievement, comparatively speaking, we have a remarkably large number of good singers. There is no need to apologize when mentioning such names as Bliss Carman, Pauline