

When the night air whispers low ;  
Like the voices of ocean, our voices are,  
When the hurling tempests blow.

"We nod to the sun ere the morning prints  
Her sandals on the mere ;  
We part with the sun when the star light glints  
On the silvery waters clear.  
And when lovers are breathing a thousand vows  
With their hearts and their cheeks aglow,  
We chant a love strain, amid our breezy boughs,  
Of a thousand years ago !

"We stand all aloof, for the giants strength  
Craveth not from lesser powers ;  
'Tis the shrub that loveth the fertile ground,  
But the sturdy rock is ours !  
We tower aloft where the hunters lag  
By the weary mountain side,  
By the jaggy cliff, by the grimy crag,  
And the chasms yawning wide.

"When the great clouds march in a mountain heap,  
By the light of the dwindled sun,  
We steady our heads while the mist-winds sweep  
And accost them one by one.  
Then about us they girth, in their thunder mirth,  
Till the wind starts fresh again,  
When, like things of a day, they pass away,  
But, like monarchs, we remain !

"The passage of years doth not move us much,  
And time itself grows old,  
Ere we bow to its flight or feel its touch  
In our limbs of giant mould.  
And the dwarfs of the wood, by decay oppressed,  
With our laughter grim we mock ;  
For the burthen of age doth but lightly rest  
On the ancient forest folk.

'Cold Winter who filcheth the forest leaf,  
And stealeth the floweret's sheen,  
Can injure us not, neither work us grief,  
Nor make our tops less green.  
And Spring, who awakens her sleeping train,  
By meadow, and hill, and lea,  
Bringeth no new life to our old domain,  
Unfading, stern, and free.

'Sublime in our solitude, changeless, vast,  
While men build, work, and save,  
We mock—for their years glide away to the past,  
And we grimly look on their grave.  
Our voice is eternal, our song sublime,  
For its theme is the day of yore—  
Back thousands of years of misty time,  
When we first grew old and hoar !

#### 4. TREES CHARACTERIZED.

The sailing *Pine* ; the *Cedar*, proud and tall ;  
The vine-prop *Elm* ; the *Poplar*, never dry ;  
The buidler *Oak*, sole king of forests all ;  
The *Aspen*, good for staves ; the *Cypress*, funeral ;  
The *Laurel*, meed of mighty conquerors,  
And poets sage ; the *Fir*, that weepeth still ;  
The *Willow*, worn of hopeless paramours ;  
The *Yew*, obedient to the bender's will ;  
The *Birch*, for shafts ; the *Sallow*, for the mill ;  
The *Myrrh*, sweet bleeding in the bitter wound,  
The warlike *Beech* ; the *Ash*, for nothing ill ;  
The fruitful *Olive*, and the *Plantain* round ;  
The carver *Holm* ; the *Maple*, seldom inward sound.

—Spenser.

#### 5. THE GLORY OF THE PINES.

Magnificent are the pines ! nay sometimes, almost terrible. Other trees tufting crag or hill, yield to the form and sway of the ground, clothe it with soft compliance, are partly the flutterers, partly its comforters.—But the pine is serene resistance, self-contained ; nor can I ever, without awe, stay long under a great Alpine cliff, far from house or work of men, looking up to its companies of pine, as they stand on the inaccessible juts and perilous lodges of

the enormous wall, in quiet multitudes, each like the shadow of the one beside it—upright, fixed, spectral, like troops not knowing each other—dumb forever. You cannot reach them, cannot cry to them—those trees never heard human voice ; they are far above all sound but of the winds. No foot ever stirred fallen leaf of theirs. All comfortless they stand, between the two eternities of the Vacancy and the Rock ; yet with such iron will, that the rock itself looks bent and shattered beside them—fragile, weak, inconsistent, compared to their dark energy of delicate life and monotony of enchanted pride ; numbered unconquerable.—*Ruskin*.

### V. Papers on Scientific Subjects.

#### 1. CANADA BEFORE THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

This Association held its annual meeting at Bath on the 14th ultimo., Sir William Armstrong, presiding. Sir Charles Lyell, the newly elected President, shortly afterwards took the chair and delivered the annual address ; from which we take the following : "In reference to the other great question, or the earliest date of vital phenomena on this planet, the late discoveries in Canada have at least demonstrated that certain theories founded in Europe on mere negative evidence were altogether delusive. In the course of a geological survey, carried on under the able direction of Sir William E. Logan, it has been shown that northward of the river St. Lawrence there is a vast series of stratified and crystalline rocks of gneiss, mica-schist, quartzite, and limestone, about 40,000 feet in thickness, which have been called Laurentian. They are more ancient than the oldest fossiliferous strata of Europe, or those to which the term primordial had been rashly assigned. In the first place, the newest part of this great crystalline series is unconformable to the ancient fossiliferous or so-called primordial rocks which overlie it ; so that it must have undergone disturbing movements before the latter or primordial set were formed. Then again, the oldest half of the Laurentian series is unconformable to the newer portion of the same. It is in this lowest and most ancient system of crystalline strata that a limestone, about a thousand feet thick, has been observed, containing organic remains. These fossils have been examined by Dr. Dawson, of Montreal, and he has detected, in them, by the aid of the microscope, the distinct structure of a large species of Rhizopod. Fine specimens of this fossil, called *Eozoon Canadense*, have been brought to Bath by Sir William Logan, to be exhibited to the members of the Association. We have every reason to suppose that the rocks in which these animal remains are included are of as old a date as any of the formations named azoic in Europe, if not older, so that they preceded in date rocks once supposed to have been formed before any organic beings had been created. But I will not venture on speculations respecting 'the signs of a beginning,' or 'the prospects of an end,' of our territorial system—that wide ocean of scientific conjecture on which so many theorists before my time have suffered shipwreck."

Sir Roderick Murchison, in proposing a vote of thanks to the President, remarked upon the above :—Now, let me say that after many years of labor among my own Silurian rocks and those which lie beneath them in Britain and the continent of Europe, I came to the conclusion that during vastly long periods in the formation of the crust of the earth, i. e., in the Lower Silurian formations, all animals (and their fossil forms are in countless profusion) belonged to invertebrate life, and that in all these long periods no fishes with back-bones swam in the seas. Descending into older rocks, and beneath the Silurian types of life, the closest researches have only revealed to us two or three species of a coralline body and probably a few seaweeds. The discovery at present announced from still older rocks pertains to the same low order of animals, and the very name *Eozoon Canadense*, or dawn of Canadian life, really seems to me to point to the earliest origin of animal life that we are likely to obtain. On such points as these discussion leads to the development of truth, which is, I am sure, the sole object of my friend and myself ; and quite certain am I, that none of our discussions have ever for one moment weakened our friendship, but on the contrary, have tended to raise our esteem for each other."

#### 2. THE SKY AN INDICATOR OF THE WEATHER.

The color of the sky, at particular times, affords wonderful good guidance. Not only does a rosy sunset presage good weather, and a ruddy sunrise bad weather, but there are other tints which speak with equal clearness and accuracy. A bright yellow sky in the evening indicates wind ; a pale yellow, wet ; a neutral gray color constitutes a favourable sign in the evening, and an unfavourable one in the morning. The clouds are again full of meaning in themselves. If their forms are soft, undefined, and full feathery, the