

A Wreath of Canadian Song

J. Ramsay, a house decorator of Westover, Ontario, who was born in 1849 and died in 1901. His poetry is uneven, but some of it is very meritorious. One stanza from "Atkinson's Mill" is all space will permit us to quote:

"No more will the big wheel revolve with a clatter,
No more the bolts turn with a turbulent clank,
Nor down the dim flume rush the wonderful water
To burst forth in foam by the green-colored bank.
The blue flag is gone from the shore that we cherish,
The song of the graybird in autumn is still,
Yet memory kindles the blossoms that perish,
Like hope that was happy by Atkinson's Mill."

William McLennan, a member of an old Glengarry family, was born in Montreal in 1856. He graduated B.C.L. at McGill University in 1880. He practised his profession for a number of years in Montreal, where he held at various times many responsible positions. His health failing, however, he was obliged to go abroad. His death took place in Vallambrosa, Italy, in 1904. Mr. McLennan's title to fame as an author depends mainly on his contributions to prose literature, though a volume of translations of old French-Canadian chansons published in 1886, under the title, "Songs of Old Canada," became very popular. His original poems, contributed to contemporary magazines, from which the stanzas given below have been taken, have not, to our knowledge, been preserved in book form: