

A NEW CANADIAN POET.

We introduce to our readers the portrait and the works of a new Canadian lyric author, Miss Mary J. MacColl, daughter of the well known writer Evans MacColl, of Kingston, one of the premiers in our poetic literature. The work is beautifully printed and may be obtained from or through any local publisher. Miss MacColl is supported in her appeal to the public by some of the best names in American letters. Longfellow writes: "Your little volume is full of poetic beauty and deep feeling." John G. Whittier says: "Bide A Wee contains a chaste and graceful collection of poems, which do credit to the heart and intellect of the author." Oliver Wendell Holmes adds: "Your little book confirmed all my favourable impressions. I found your poems truthful and melodious." Joaquin Miller exclaims, "Your book is a live book, bright and beautiful." There are a number of other tributes to the same effect. In the presence of such applause, any words of appreciation on our part would be of little avail. We may be allowed to say, however, that while heartily commending the work as indicative of poetic taste and instinct, we should recommend a stricter adherence to the simpler rules of grammatical construction, Miss MacColl has much of the poetic temperament, but she needs to chasten and castigate her muse, and the excuse which she adduces in her preface that several of her pieces have been "written hastily, at intervals, under circumstances far from favourable to the clothing of poetic thoughts in poetic garb," is not admissible in honest criticism. But we shall allow the reader to judge for himself by a few citations. We shall first take the piece which gives its name to the volume and which we must naturally regard as being considered the best by the author.

"Bide a wee and dinna weary"
"Patience" quaintly was defined
By a little Scottish maiden
And the sweet words to my mind
Ever linger, like the memory
Of a beautiful refrain,
Making hours of gloom less dreary,
When I breathe them o'er again.

Fretted by the many crosses
All must bear from day to day,
Troubled by our cares and losses,
Each of us hath need to say
To our hearts' impatient crying
For the ships so long at sea,
While faith fades and life is dying—
"Dinna weary, bide a wee."



MARY J. MACCOLL, AUTHOR OF "BIDE A WEE AND OTHER POEMS."

"Rainy days" each life will sadden,
Gentle shower or tempest wild,
Fall upon us—blessings gladden
In their turn. To every child
Gives the Father or withholdeth,
Ever wisely, tenderly;
Thus our hearts for Heaven He mendeth,
"Dinna weary, bide a wee."

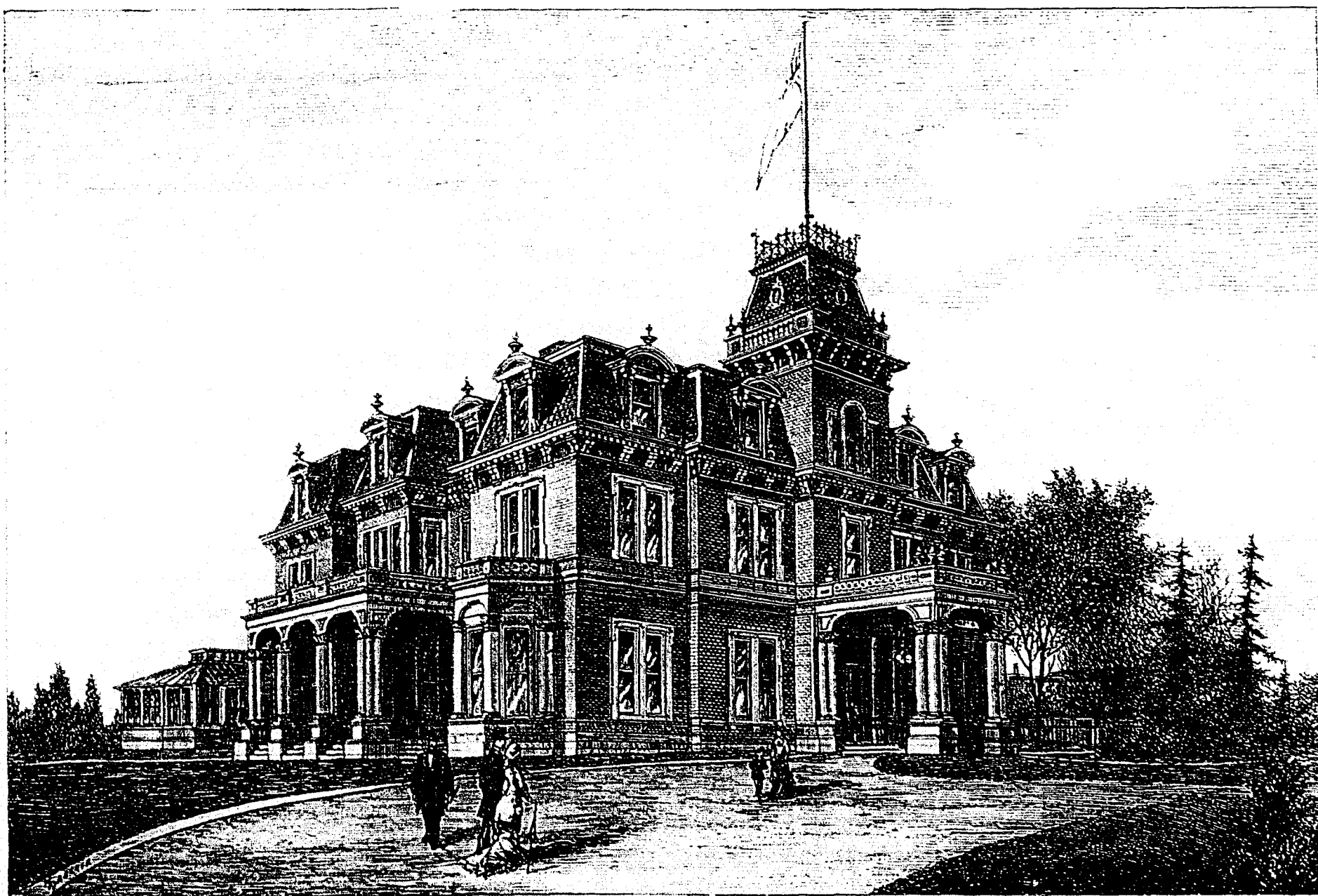
Some there are whom glad fruition
Neath the skies may never bless,
Some to whose long-urged petition
Ne'er will come the yearned-for "Yes."
Why! God knoweth—He who lendeth
Strength to suffer trustingly
What he seeth best he sendeth—
"Dinna weary, bide a wee."

Hopeful, wait a good to-morrow,
Cast on Jesus every care,
Not unseen by Him thy sorrow,
Not unpitied thy despair.
For His people there remaineth
Rest and peace eternally,
Where the light of joy ne'er waneth,
"Dinna weary, bide a wee."

SOME of the French journals give very flattering accounts of the progress of the preliminary work on the tunnel which is to connect France and England. It is stated that the shaft is sunk to the stratum in which the tunnel is to be cut, and that those engaged in the work are about to sink another shaft, and to lower the machinery for boring under the channel. The work on the tunnel is expected to be finished in two or three years.

At the recent christening of Paul de Cassagnac's child, ex-Queen Isabella of Spain stood as its godmother and M. Julien of Marseilles as its godfather, and the latter settled upon the boy the sum of 250,000 francs. M. Julien is simply a fanatical admirer of the Bonapartist deputy. He is the same gentleman who some time ago offered to pay all Cassagnac's fines and election expenses, but the consideration was declined.

M. JULES FERRY, the French Minister who introduced the bill for the expulsion of the Jesuits from France, is the direct descendant of the man who, 120 years ago, established several houses of the same order in that country. M. Ferry's ancestor having lost his wife joined the order of the Jesuits, and after studying at the Jesuit College at Rome was ordained a priest. He returned to France one of the most ardent followers of St. Ignatius. His name was also Jules. The present Minister is the great grandson of the son that this reverend father had before he embraced the monastic career.



TORONTO.—GOVERNMENT HOUSE.