

I.

LAYS OF THE 'TRUE NORTH.'

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE CANADIAN POEM.

'In hoc signo vinces.'

FROM west to east, from east to west,
The glad bells ring across the sea ;
They echo o'er the ocean's breast
With sound of song and minstrelsy.
Wide as our world-wide Empire swells
The mellow music of the bells
That ring Victoria's Jubilee !

Back through the mists of sixty years
They bid the lingering fancy stray,
Through all their changing hopes and fears,
Through summers green and winters gray ;
And, looking both ways o'er the stream
Of Time, we see, as in a dream,
The vision of a gala-day :—

A chapel royal, through whose vaulted height
Deep organ tones majestic music pour,
While, through emblazoned panes, the rainbow light
Falls in soft colours on the marble floor,
On Britain's chivalry, on ladies bright,
And effigies of kings and knights of yore,
And a young princess, on whose sunny hair
A crown imperial rests—too stern a weight of care !