

to note the humour of this transitory state, and to seize the kinks and peculiarities of the speech. So we have Charles G. Leland's German-English Breitmann Ballads; his Indian-English and his Pidgin-English (the latter almost as unreadable as the original Chinese is to most of us); Charles Follen Adams' humorous-pathetic poems with "Yawcob Strauss" at the head; Dr. Drummond's typical French-Canadian poems; the negro verse of Joel Chandler Harris, Irwin Russell, Nelson Page, and many more that could be mentioned—poems to which there are none that correspond in the literature of any other country. In this anthology will be found a fair number of the more representative phases of dialect verse. I have limited the choice, for dialect, however good and humorous, is troublesome to read. But these poems, difficult as they are, will live long. They are the scouts of a rapidly conquering and destined-to-be-universal language.

The present writers of verse in America have one great advantage which was not shared by their prototypes of a dozen years ago even. To-day a number of the foremost American periodicals are published simultaneously in England and America. It is rather a strange thing that America, comparatively weak as she admittedly is in great literary lights, should turn out week by week periodicals that