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THE POETRY OF ARTHUR WEIR.

Prominent among the sweet singers of Canada is Mr. Arthur Weir, for the following specimens of whose gifts we are indebted to the *King's College Record*. A quotation from his sonnet "Remembrance," will serve as an example of Mr. Weir's descriptive power:—

"The aspens whisper to the passing breeze,
I hear the night-hawk's scream, the pipe of frogs,
The baying of the distant village dogs,
The lapping waves, the rustle of the trees,
And every sound is musical to me,
For every sound is a sweet song of thee."

Another example of fine description is that which occurs in "La Chino," referring to the course of the Canadian Pacific Railway:—

"Like spider in a web, it creeps
On filmy bridge, o'er sparkling streams
Or chasms where the sunlight gleams
Part-way, and dies amid the deeps."

It scales the rugged snow-clad peaks,
And looks afar on East and West,
Then, like an eagle from its nest
Darts down, and through the valley shrieks."

But the scene of what is said to be his finest work, "The Romance of Sir Richard," is laid in the old world. This poem describes how two young lovers, visiting the ruins of an ancient castle by night, allow their fancies to wander back to the days of chivalry, and weave "The Romance of Sir Richard," beside whose tomb they are sitting. Such stanzas as these will serve to show the simplicity, sweetness and strength of this poem:—

"Darkly the moated waters swept
Around the castle's massive pile,
That night when I my vigil kept
Of knightly in this gloomy aisle.
The yew tree tapped the tinted panes,
The owl hooted in the glade,
And Philomel with plaintive strains
Her secret to the night betrayed."

Midsummer lightnings sweetly shy,
Low in the far horizon burned,
Like love-light in thine hazel eye,
When mine upon thy face is turned;
And as amidst the gloom I stood,
With the departed great, alone,
A moonbeam through the solitude
Came creeping on from stone to stone.

Like our other Poets Mr. Weir is an ardent, loyal Canadian.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

I had the pleasure of hearing Mr. G. R. Parkin's address before the Ottawa branch of the Imperial Federation League, last evening, explanatory of the mission he is undertaking to the antipodes under the auspices of the Australian branch of the League. As Mr. Parkin has recently, though informally, discussed this subject in Halifax, your readers will be familiar with the man and his mission. Mr. Sandford Fleming, the President of the Ottawa branch, said in the course of his introductory remarks, that, coming amongst us as the author of that very able article upon Imperial Federation which appeared in the December number of the *CENTURY* magazine, Mr. Parkin needed no better passport to the appreciation of an audience in the capital city of Canada, where the scheme had taken so strong a hold upon thinking men; and indeed, if the eloquent lecturer meets with the same enthusiastic reception in the political centres of the various colonies he visits during his tour as he did here, the success of his mission in making the project he advocates a practical issue in the politics of the British Empire is assured beyond a doubt. Mr. Parkin has a broad and practical grasp of the subject with which he has undertaken to deal. He at once carries the conviction home to his hearers that he is propounding no illusive and chimerical scheme calculated to tickle the fancy of political dreamers while it is insusceptible of crystallization into a living factor in the affairs of men, but, on the contrary, by keen analysis of all possible obstacles to the proper working of the scheme and of the means whereby such obstacles might be surmounted, by a collocation of facts and figures, illustrative of the commercial significance of the various portions of the Empire in their present unconsolidated state, and of its sure and certain expansion under the favorable influences of federation, and, above all, by a masterly presentation of the argument *ab convenienti* in the event of menace by a foreign power, he showed that the enterprise is one of pith and moment to the Colonies, and one that must play an important part in working out the destiny of British civilization.

Mr. Parkin was exceedingly felicitous in his treatment of the French-Canadian phase of the question. After paying a glowing tribute to this people for their patriotism, their indomitable pluck in overcoming obstacles to their racial autonomy, and their loyalty to British institutions, he said that it was the element of French interest which largely assured the accomplishment of the project so far as Canada was concerned. For a patriotic French Canadian to listen to the seductive piping of annexationists was simply out of the question. By the treaty of Paris the extensive rights and privileges now enjoyed by French-Canadians were guaranteed to them in perpetuity under British domination, any infringement of which would be a *casus belli* between France and England. Suppose Canada were cut adrift from Britain and desired to be annexed to the United States, could Quebec with her population of a million, and withal a more province, hope to negotiate a treaty of a like nature with a nation of sixty millions? The idea is absurd to even dream about, and were Quebec to enter the American Union to-morrow, without a guarantee of her privileges such as she now enjoys, within a score of years at most she would but repeat the history of