

and his language generally betrays a tendency to grandiloquence which is sometimes out of sympathy with the theme. His smiles, too, are sometimes greatly overstrained. Thus, for example, in the "Evening Scene," Lake Erie appears

"softly calm,
Calm as the thoughts that soothe the dying
breast

As the soul passes to the great I AM."

To one who lives beside Lake Ontario' right on the shore, and who delights in its many moods, this is a somewhat strange simile. The receptive soul will be filled at times with an exultant spirit and at other times cannot but feel awed in the presence of one of the mighty wonders of creation, but these are not the feelings of a dying man.

Again the patriotic poem "Brock" is spoiled, in one stanza at least, by references to the martyrs, heroes, poets or sages, of which Brock is one.

"Wrestling with some *Pythonic* wrong,
In prayer, in thunder, thought or song;
Briareus-limbed, they sweep along,
The *Typhons* of the time."

But though our poet has faults which would have been eliminated by careful revision, these faults are of little moment compared with the true poetic instinct, the love of nature and the truly religious fervor of the inspired singer.

L. E. HORNING.

MONTREAL LETTER.

The Montreal Corn Exchange Association has selected Mr. John Torrance as its representative on the Board of Harbour Commissioners. Mr. Torrance is the head of the well known shipping firm of David Torrance & Co., and a man of ability and integrity, and well able to look after the affairs of the harbour to the interests of the city and the shipping. The city has been ordered by the courts to do work which it is not prepared to do; that is, to extend St. Lawrence Street and St. Lambert Hill to the river. This means hundreds of thousands of dollars of expenditure to be met by taxation. The city cannot borrow any more money, for it has already reached the limit of its borrowing power, and the tax which is necessary to raise the money will fall heavily on the citizens who have at present too much to pay to make living profitable. The new street will wipe out a number of old landmarks and will take a slice off the big convent of the Sisters of the congregation of Notre Dame. It is likely, however, that an appeal will be made to a higher court and even if it does not turn in favour of the city, it will give it some time to think over the matter.

The annual convention of the Canadian Electrical Association was held in this city last week and a large number of delegates came from the two older Provinces. Mr. J. J. Wright, of Toronto, President of the Association, presided. Papers on various subjects kindred to their craft were read and discussed and the members profited much thereby. They also enjoyed the usual pleasures pertaining to a convention and were courteously received by the various scientific societies and associations. They paid a visit to McGill University at the special invitation of the Faculty of Applied Science, and Prof. Ashley Carus-Wilson, of the Electrical Department, and inspected the electrical laboratories and made practical tests on some of the apparatus.

The Governor-General and Her Excellency Lady Aberdeen were in the city for a day or two last week. Her Excellency is still deeply interested in the welfare of the Irish Industries Association, and she took the opportunity of visiting the establishment of Messrs. John Murphy, who are the agents of the association for the sale of Irish laces. Of course there were many ladies there to meet her, and in a practical speech she pointed out the beauties of the Irish goods. She appealed to all who were interested in Ireland to support the effort of the association to bring Irish manufactures before the public, and thus help along the poor working peasants of the Green Isle. She even, for the moment, turned saleswoman, and displayed the goods, pointing out their good qualities, and effecting sales with all the vim of a smart clerk. Lady Aberdeen has, indeed, a warm heart for the old sod.

Police matters are still taking up a good deal of attention and public sentiment is strongly in favor of a thorough investigation into the workings of the department. A large fund is being raised by private subscription for the purpose of bringing about that end. The committee of investigation, as was expected, was drawn entirely from the City Council and is composed of seven members, four of whom have, it is generally believed, strong leanings towards the police department. This is unfortunate for the lovers of law and order, and they find that they will have to make every effort in order to override the feeling of the majority of the committee and force into the light the doings of the police which have aroused public feeling and which should warrant the complete reorganization of the department. The committee have opened its proceedings by advertising for evidence, and it will sit on October 2nd for the purpose of hearing what evidence may be forthcoming. It is to help in the gathering of the necessary evidence that the fund is being raised.

For a few short months only has this city and the suburbs enjoyed the benefits which are derived from two gas companies in opposition to each other. From the organization of the Consumers Gas Company until the present time, the citizens in some sections have enjoyed cheap gas and they were congratulating themselves on the pleasant turn of affairs when a rumor of the amalgamation of the two companies spread over the city and shattered the hopes of the long-suffering citizens for cheap light and heat. The old price was \$1.40 per thousand cubic feet until a reduction of 10 cents per thousand if paid within a certain time. Then there was a meter rent which ran from 40 cents a quarter for a three-light meter up. The new company supplied the gas at the rate of \$1.00 per thousand feet and gave the meter free of charge besides allowing a discount if the bills were paid promptly. Gas for cooking was supplied at about ninety cents net. This is what the citizens had wished for for many a day and they applauded the young company and slapped it on the back and said they would take its gas. The young company was full of energy and said it would release the city from the great monster which was living upon its life's blood and on the strength of this secured all the privileges it wanted and went along merrily with its work, putting in mains and building its works and supplying the citizens with a better gas than they had been accus-

tomed to. The result was marvellous. The old company came to its knees and offered to supply gas on the same terms as its young rival. The citizens said this opposition was good and they gave it the support it deserved. But the citizens forgot that the new company was like all other companies, without a soul. This young reprobate of a company was without a soul, for it broke faith with the citizens and walked into the enemy's camp without a struggle. The bribe was a good fat one, something like \$375,000. Once more then is this city at the mercy of a monopoly which charges a higher price for gas than any other company on the continent and makes its consumers pay for the gas meters.

A. J. F.

RED LETTER DAYS.

Give me of thy glory, oh red tree!
Give me of thy yellow greenery!
Thou hast the glint of the morning dew,
Thou hast the sheen where the sun shines
thro!

Give me of thy fruitage, oh grape vine,
Warm with the glow of the red, red wine;
Spherical thy flagons, tense and thin,
Ruddily rent by the flush within!

Leisurely the cow bells homeward swing:
Retrospective robins lonely sing:
Whip-poor-will and cricket tune their choirs,
Sitting by the Sumach's blazing fires!

So let the deepening twilight close;
So let the purple blend with the rose;
Wandering greyly across the leas,
Duskily the shadows clasp the trees;

Dim grow the delicate blades of grass,
Fainter the joy of their rippling mass;
Yielding their treasures of heat and light,
Unto the soul of the sunless night!

C. M. HOLMES.

Picton, Ont.

M. Henri Chatelier publishes in the July number of the *Journal de Physique*, Paris, the first instalment of an interesting treatise on the principles of energetics which, though dealing generally with energy in all forms, is nearly coextensive with what is usually termed thermodynamics. Instead, however, of making energy the quantity whose laws and transformations are studied, he fixes his attention only upon the available energy in any process—a quantity which he names *puissance motrice* (motive force), but which has been treated of by Thompson under the name of "motivity," by Helmholtz as "free energy," by Gibbs as "thermodynamic potential," and by others under other names. The difference between energy and available energy appears at once when we consider a weight. Its energy depends on its height and mass, but its available energy depends on the distance through which it can fall. If a steam engine was placed in an atmosphere whose temperature was just as high as that of its own furnace, it would have no available energy at all, though the absolute amount of energy contained in it would be very great. The author sets out from the experimental laws that it is impossible to create motive force, and that it can be destroyed only by creating a proportionate amount of heat—laws roughly equivalent to the ordinary statement of the principle of conservation of energy—and proceeds to deduce several interesting conclusions. In succeeding articles the principles are to be applied especially to the phenomena of chemistry.