

The Greek home is being elevated, and that speaks volumes for the future of the nation, and the observant traveller who visits that hospitable country in the present time, will find that while he has forged a new link between past and present in the chain which binds art and history, there has been awakened a sympathy in him for a people who, with faults and weaknesses which cannot be condoned, possess a vitality, energy and imagination worthy of their ancient and glorious surroundings. Many trials are before the ambitious little kingdom, and hot-headed leaders may involve her in many troubles, but with her present educational system, we believe she will come to be a mighty civilizing power.

J. A. M. HEMMEON.

#### HYMN TO THE SUN.

Life-giving orb, that from the gates of morn  
Rise'st, and with thine arrows of keen light  
Dost vanquish darkness, and when odorous eve  
Spreads round her dewy charms, in vapors clothed  
Of hues so gorgeous that they seem to be  
Glimpses of distant Heaven, sinkest to rest ;  
To thee I sing. Who would not sing of thee ?  
Well wert thou known by primal man as God.  
Thou givest light, by thee the meadow smiles,  
All song is of thee, and the vermeil rose  
By thee is dyed, and can a God do more ?  
A God made thee. How must the heavenly host  
Have sung, when from thy atomic centre hurled  
The planets circled thee, and from the vast  
Chaotic vapors thou cam'st forth and shone,  
And through th' infinitudes of pathless space  
In chorus singing with thy radiant words  
Rushed with the speed of thought. Then, O, how I sing,  
What myriad upon myriad ages fled  
Whilst upon lifeless, fiery spheres thou smiled'st  
Ere yet upon this orb, thy sacred beams  
With heat and light impregnated the seed,  
Yet embryo hidden in its womb terrene,  
And life, unfathomed, mystic, wonderful,  
Came forth to glorify and bless thy ray  
Rewarding ; then as aeons rolled along  
Those splendours, but the paths of monsters dread  
Did guide thro' deeps tempestuous till man,  
(Framed in the image of thy God, O Sun)  
Was born to empire o'er the moving world,  
And gazing on thee, mindful of thy gifts,  
Did he forget his maker, and to thee  
Bowed worshipping ; and straight thou wert a god  
With glittering shafts, upon the shadowy race,  
Waging wide warfare in thy varied name.  
Hyperion first upon his blazing orb

Flamed o'er the world, then later fancy saw  
Apollo in his golden chariot urge  
His coursers, trampling on the viewless winds  
Across the azure realms. And thou hast gazed  
On rising empires, seen the earth grow pale  
Before their might resistless, then beheld  
Grim Desolation watching o'er their ruins,  
But thou art as of old, in splendrous guise  
Wheeling thy giant circuit, giv'ng life  
To worlds innumerable and in thyself  
Art truest symbol of Eternity.

How like a dashing ocean Time rolls o'er  
Mankind, who like some substance cast upon  
The heaving waters, wearing fast away,  
Dissolving in the wave, at length from sight  
Forever disappears, nor leaves behind  
A single trace to show he once had been.  
Not so with thee who art unchanged forever.  
Whether thou comest from the orient gates  
Clothed with the morning, or in western seas  
Sinkest to slumber, or when storms are loud  
Upon the groaning sphere, and murky clouds  
Robe thee in night, or, when the tempest time  
Is past, and thou serenely o'er the sky  
Rollest in splendours, thou art still the same  
Eternal, glorious, unfathomed, strong,  
Visible, god throned in immensity.

E. B.

#### Contributed.

##### MANITOBA CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Athenæum :—

Your visits always have the air of Auld Lang Syne and that means a great deal to those of us who are in the wild west. Every paragraph from Sanctum wisdom to Local philosophy keeps fresh in memory the old associations.

The educational question will, for some years, be the most important problem before our churches in Manitoba and the North-West. A large number of people feel that we need an institution that will be to the denomination what Acadia is in the Maritime Provinces. A few, on the other hand, contend that higher education ought to be left to the state, and only the theological work laid upon the denomination. It will be interesting to observe the progress and issue of this new struggle between these principles which have so often met in conflict.