

Reviews and Notices of Books.

HESPERUS, AND OTHER POEMS AND LYRICS.

This little volume, by Mr. Sangster, of Kingston, Canada West, is worthy of perusal. It has often been said that poetry is merely a vehicle for bad language; and Mr. Sangster, in his "St. Lawrence and the Saguenay," certainly proved that the saying is, in some measure, correct. We say, in some measure, because many poets have succeeded in producing works which are written as correctly as prose. Such men as Milton, Shakespeare, Byron, and even the Tennyson of our own not poetic age, have sometimes written grammatically; although in rhyme or blank verse. Milton's "Paradise Lost" is to this day used as a text book for parsing by intellectual teachers of the English language, and will be so used, so long as the art of printing remains to the human family. Shakespeare has conveyed more in a few words of verse than, perhaps, any one man in a thousand could convey in as many words of prose. Byron's power of description in rhyme was truly wonderful and Spencer was nearly always sublime. But as we wish to notice only Mr. Sangster's last work, (the work of a living Canadian poet,) we shall not call up the memory of any other of those almost inspired, and in some cases, perhaps, insane men, who have done more for morality and fineness of feeling, than all the teaching of the schools. We wish merely to acknowledge that poetry may be, sometimes, as correctly written as the more usual way of expressing ideas. Mr. Sangster, in many parts of his last work, has imitated Tennyson, and has done it with success. Some of his measures are very fine, and his conception, as shewn through even his first work, is really grand. He, although a man advanced in years, appears still to have, in his feelings, the freshness of youth. He is in love, not only with his Maries and Evas; but with all nature, animate and inanimate. He personifies a waterfall, a roaring rapid, and a maple leaf, with the same facility and *empressment*; and his choice of subjects, for Canada, is very appropriate. His imagination is undoubtedly very prolific, perhaps too much so, and his ear must be very fine, or rather his bump of "time" must be very large; for his verses run very smoothly. He shews some carelessness, however, in reading his proofs; for in some cases his measure would be better by