

# Literary Notes

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Trains leave Napanee for the north at 7.50 a.m., 12.10 p.m., 1.25 p.m., and 4.25 p.m.  
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Trains run between Deseronto and Napanee as follows:—

Leave Deseronto at 1.00 a.m., 1.40 a.m., 5.55 a.m., 7.00 a.m., 7.20 a.m., 9.50 a.m., 11.30 a.m., 12.40 p.m., 12.55 p.m., 3.45 p.m., 6.10 p.m., 7.40 p.m.  
Leave Napanee at 2.20 a.m., 3.30 a.m., 6.30 a.m., 6.35 p.m., 7.55 a.m., 10.30 a.m., 12.05 p.m., 1.20 p.m., 11.00 a.m., 4.30 p.m., 6.50 p.m., 8.15 p.m.

The Deseronto Navigation Company operate the str. "Ella Ross" and str. "Jessie Bain" running between Picton, Deseronto, Belleville and Trenton, as also the str. "Where Now" making the famous 50-mile ramble from Gananoque to all points in and around the Thousand Islands, connecting with all trains at Gananoque, as well as making the railway transfer between Gananoque and Clayton, N.Y.

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IN the publication "Canada" there have appeared recently, suggestive articles on "The Future of Canadian Literature," written by various Canadians already known to the readers of newspapers and magazines. Miss Alice Jones of Halifax contributes to the discussion a well-written page on the romance of Nova Scotia.

There is no lack of material so far as fiction is concerned. But here we are confronted with the question: how far is romance concerned with material? The difference between the genius and the rest of us has seldom been better expressed than in the lines:—

"What seest thou at yonder dim cross roads  
Beside that shuttered inn?  
Untravelled Possibility  
The Inn of Splendid Mystery.  
What seest thou?  
I see the dim cross-roads  
Beside a shuttered inn."

The poet has written a pathetic line about the "mute inglorious Milton," but a modern critic has said that no true Milton could or would remain mute and inglorious. He is evidently of the opinion that poetry like murder will "out." One of the most sensible remarks concerning Canadian efforts in self-expression was made by Professor Alexander at the opening of the Margaret Eaton School of Literature and Expression when he urged the necessity for more honesty of individual opinion. "If you find Shakespeare dull," said the speaker; "say so. Not that he is dull but that you find him so." It was a stimulating bit of advice but one wondered what would happen if it were followed. For years a certain earnest reader of English poetry cherished a secret dislike for Wordsworth, but did not dare to say so until he found a great man who was quite frank concerning his inability to read "The Excursion." But one is likely to get into serious trouble by not pretending. A Scotch professor has never forgiven one of his students for saying that she detests Robert Burns and thinks "A Man's a Man for a' That" a tiresome bit of platitudinous democracy. The curious feature about this independence is that it is an excellent thing for the other man. It is all very well to find Shakespeare dull but you must be prepared to fall down and worship at the sign of the "Doll's House."

A reader of this column has asked for the publication of a poem by Miss Wetherald, "Winter Gifts." Probably the poem "The White Gifts" is referred to and this is quoted below.

"These are thy gifts, O Life;  
A white frost on the hair  
And a wintry whiteness on the cheek  
That once was young and fair.

These are thy gifts, O Love:  
A white frost on the veins,  
And a deep-snow silence on the soul  
Where once were fiery pains.

And thy great gifts, O Death,  
Are in the frost-bound frame,  
The ice-locked lips, the white, white  
peace  
That is too deep for name."

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