

DUVAR AS A POET.

JOHN HUNTER DUVAR lived among us as a country gentleman, devoted to his books and to his farm. Earlier in his career he gave so much attention to the militia of Canada that he rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. During several years he was also an officer—an efficient officer—under the Fisheries Department of the Dominion Government; and he dabbled to some extent in archæology and current literature. But it is as a poet that his name will go down to posterity. It is not improbable that in the course of two or three hundred years, or more, the name of Duvar will be well known by the scholars of the day as that of one of the first among Canadian poets.

The poetical works of Duvar include "Enamorado," a drama; "Roberval," a drama; "The Emigration of The Fairies," "The Triumph of Constancy," a romaunt; "The Seven Lays of Lancelot," "Moirá Encantada," "John a'Var, his Lais," fragment of a lyric; and others of minor importance, some of which have not yet been published.

I shall not now attempt an elaborate analysis or criticism of these works. My present purpose is merely to point out a few of the many poetic beauties, contained, for the most part, in "The Emigration of The Fairies," and in "Roberval." These poems are particularly interesting to Canadians, because the scenes depicted are connected with the early history of our own country. "The Emigration of The Fairies" is, indeed, a fanciful and beautifully written description of the voyages of the pioneers of Prince Edward Island,—the conditions in the old land, the dangers of the passage of the ocean, and the landing with glad hearts upon our shores. In the storm at sea, and the