

British Canadian Poets A Review

in for a talk. Iately arrested. smashed his surrender. in were great prisoners. and convicted. immediately re-captured. taking expedi- Mr. Wadding- For a long this "fine old streets of up his head that he was in his old age poverty. But to bear his demands of y were sorry were sorry fed to death, new how he offered to thers who in spitality, had e enterprise, ally cut the of his adver- murmured

much journalistic work (including the making of novels of Aesida, which is not, and never was, an Arcady, and likewise verse with passion without fret-fulness. Two of his brothers and a sister have also written verse with a touch of mystical distinction. Indeed, these New Brunswick poets, who are ap-propriate to use strips of birch-bark either scrawled scribble on or for the building of canoes, are a family rather than a school. Far and away the greatest of the LeBlancs is Charles Carman, and with the possible exceptions of Louis Frechette and, in minor modes, the unhappy Emile Nelligan—he is the best of the Canadian poets. His poetry, says M. Davray, "Revele une des plus vigoureuses personnalités de l'heure actuelle un poete de langue anglaise qu'on peut sans temerite mettre au meme rang que W. B. Yeats, Stephen Phillips, and some synonyms, Laurence Binyon, etc. Il se peut meme que la posterite le classe plus favorablement encore."

Ontario native-poets. They are as subtly monotonous as the Ontario landscape itself, of which a poet-ical traveler from the canning-its wrought-variety aspects of England, the world's garden, said irrelevantly, "I do wish I could be free of the sight of these ever-lasting pipe-tops!" But Scott's lines on a village churchyard in Ontario (though it might be any acre of the dead anywhere) deserve quotation, perhaps:

This is the paradise of common things. The scoured and trampled here find peace to grow. The frost to furrow and the wind to sow. The night to sun to time their blossoming; And now they keep A crown reflowering on the tombs of kings Who earned their triumph and have claimed their sleep.

The poor forgets that he was ever poor. The priest has lost his science and his truth. The maid her beauty, and the youth his youth. The statesman has forgot his subtle lure, And his old age, and his old name, and his old cure. The sick his suffering, and the leech his cure. The poet his perplexed and vacant page.

Imperialistic Speeches

NE of the most notable gatherings of the tercentenary celebration was that at the Citadel at Quebec when Earl Grey (then Lord Dufferin) presided over the various British dominions represented at the celebration of the tercentenary. About the table were grouped envoys of the various dominions, and the scene, as well as a representative gathering of the lieutenant-governors, premiers, bankers, and leading business men of the various provinces. The guests were presented to His Excellency on their arrival, and after a few minutes spent in conversation, the way was led to the supper dining-room, which was situated in the Citadel. The room was decorated with trophies and stacks of arms, while the band of the R.C.M.P. discoursed music in the ante-room adjoining. Discouraged music in the ante-room, the speaker, overlooking the splendid panorama of the St. Lawrence, filled as it is now with ships of the three friendly nations.

self-sacrifice. If, as Your Excellency suggests, my coming here to take part in these ceremonies may stimulate that true spirit of citizenship, then indeed I shall look back with pride and satisfaction upon my association with events so unique and memorable in the history of Canada. Once more, Your Excellency, I thank you for your kind words in proposing my coming here, and I thank you, my lords and gentlemen, for the kind manner in which you received the toast.

FRANCE LOSING GROUND In 1907, says a Paris letter in the New York Post, the number of deaths in France exceeded the births by nearly 20,000. This is all the more remarkable in view of the different showing made by the marriage statistics of that country. In proportion with the other nations of Europe, France has been making an increasing steadily for some years. Last year 160 Frenchmen and women were married for every 100 deaths by 40,000. The 18 other European countries, higher, too, than for any other European countries (except Hungary, Bulgaria, Servia, Luxemburg, and Greece), were 30, and many hold off until 40.

The Policy of Japan

The following letter appeared in a recent issue of the London Times: SIR—During the last two or three years I have been very busy with the questions whether the Japanese might not go to war with America, or invade Australia or covet the Philippine Islands. A few words to those who have lived in Japan may be useful in helping to remove misapprehensions.

There has, of course, been more talk in regard to the Philippines, which has originated, chiefly, it would seem, from the party in America that is opposed to anything but the "continent of America, or at most the continent and its adjacent islands. Here again, I have never met with any expression of desire on the part of the Japanese for possession of the Philippines. That has been a matter of the imagination, but under certain circumstances it is obviously more likely to arise than any desire for Australia. For many years to come the Japanese sincerely hope that America will keep tight hold of the Islands. The financial situation is not such as to lead Japan to desire fresh burdenment at home and developments in Korea and Manchuria, there is enough to do to last for a good many years. Yet I suppose that if America were to give up the Islands, Japan would rather take the burden than see any European power establish a foothold which might hereafter be hostile and would involve the necessity of a great increase in the Japanese fleet for the protection of its interests in the Pacific. I write this, not as having any special predilection for the point of view of common sense, coupled with the perfect sequence of public opinion in Japan on all these matters, so far as a foreigner living in that country can judge. I think that a good deal of harm has probably been unjustly done to Japanese interests, especially in financial matters, by the constant recurrence in the newspapers of the West of these subjects, which are regarded as smoke indicating that there must be fire to account for it.