

## MR. EDGAR'S BOOK.

FROM the publishing house of William Briggs, Toronto, comes a little book of verse bound in delicate, pale blue covers, and bearing the title, "This Canada of ours and Other Poems," by J. D. Edgar, M.P. Though Mr. Edgar's verse is not unknown in Canada his "The Song Sparrow" and "The White Stone Canoe" being already well known to readers of verse, the former known to readers of verse, the former being incorporated in "Songs of the Great Dominion"—yet he is an agreeable surprise to lovers of Canadian letters that a leading politician, amid the hard toil and stress of public life, should still find time to cultivate those more sensitive and more refined moods that are necessary to the production of verse.

It might be hard to classify these few poems among the many productions of our past and present literary development. The author of "The White Stone Canoe" and "The Song Sparrow" has made literature a pastime or recreation from the sterner toils and cares of every day life. Such as it is, it shows scholarly refinement and some literary power, with a good deal of the patriotic spirit which this country so sadly needs. "This Canada of Ours" and "Arouse, Ye Brave Canadians" have evidently been written from the heart, and there is terse strength and an awakening power in

Let every man who swings an axe,  
Or follows at the plough,  
Abandon farm and homestead,  
And grasp a rifle now."

"The Canadian Song Sparrow" is a genuine nature-lyric, and the production of one who has a loving eye for our every-day nature, and makes one wish that the writer had done more work in this direction:

"When the farmer ploughs his furrow,  
Sowing seed with hope of harvest,  
In the orchard white with blossom,  
In the early fields of clover,  
Comes the little brown bird singing,  
Flitting in and out of bushes,  
Hiding well behind the fences,  
Peeling forth his song of sadness."

Such lines, by their genuine, simple and truthful beauty, bespeak for themselves a place in our permanent Canadian literature. "The White Stone Canoe" is finely written and can scarcely be called an imitation of "Hiawatha," but the long fellian style of stanza and the manner was, to say the least, unfortunate, and takes from the poem even that charm that Mr. Edgar has added to it. Even "Hiawatha" has suffered from the extreme facility of the verse in which it is written, a kind of verse that does not generally adapt itself to any depth of thought or feeling, and is certainly unfitted for the best kind of nature description. It is a kind of wordy chant, that flows from the mind as fast as it enters. Mr. Edgar's poem, however, shows a fine, pure, choice of language, and a certain vigor of style that makes it more than readable, and leads one to believe that had he taken a less hackneyed form of verse he might have produced an original poem of power worthy of the subject.

There are some good translations in the book, but the other good thing, to my mind, is "Nunc est Bibendum," which suggests a poetical power, even in a

translation, not common in our literature:

"The daughter of a hundred kings,  
She spurned the Roman chariots,  
And sought to spill the fiery blood  
That swelled her ruby veins.  
"In her ears the chariots rumbled,  
In her ears the shoutings rang,  
Then she bared her snowy bosom  
To the serpent's poisoned fang."

This is not verse to be sneered at, or tolerated merely because it is Canadian. True lovers of verse read for enjoyment and inspiration, and in this little book both will be found, if to a limited extent. Mr. Edgar has done wisely in publishing. And in this simple and unaffected volume he has materially added in a scholarly manner to that rapidly growing store of patriotism and love of nature with which our literature is becoming endowed.—C. in The Globe.

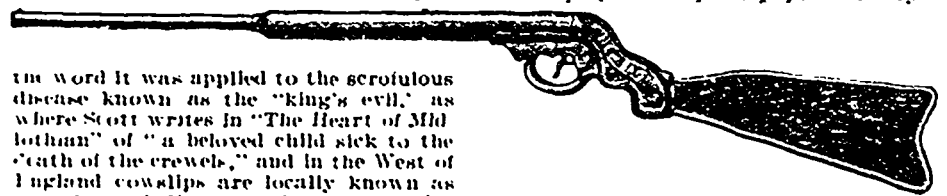
## A CASE OF CREWELS.

Although no particular notice was taken, says an English exchange, at the time of the title of crewels being given to embroidery worsteds, when they were brought again into use some twenty years ago it was a remarkable textile revival. Crewels—or, as the word was written, crule, crewle, cruile, cruele, and crull—had been familiar to English needle-women for several centuries, and were not only used in tapestry making and other forms of needle painting, frequently for ecclesiastical vestments, but were made too, into the small flannels of fashion, such as laces and fringes, as well as into garters and hose. Evidence in abundance can be obtained as to the employment of crewels in each of these several capacities, and the material can be traced as far back as 1491, when "cruile" was bought by weight. The literature of this good old stand-fast in smallwares, if it were followed out, would be found often singular, and generally entertaining, from the "cruel garters" in King Lear, to the crewel-made flies with which Isaac Walton went a-fishing, with many another interesting reference besides. From a curious ringing of changes upon

the word it was applied to the scrofulous disease known as the "king's evil," as where Scott writes in "The Heart of Midlothian" of "a beloved child sick to the death of the crewels," and in the West of England cowslips are locally known as crewels, reminding us of the way in which country children speak of primroses as either pined-eyes or thumb-eyed. We have, however, no intention of writing now a full, true, and particular account of crewels in all their relationships, but merely wish to ask, while the matter is still well within memory, by whom they were brought up and given a fresh lease of life in trade. At the beginning of this century began wood-work, in all its rectangular hideousness, had begun its reign, and crewels were discarded. The name began to appear in commercial dictionaries as belonging to an article out of use and dropping out of mind, although it was cherished in rural districts, and in the northern counties was specially dear to the little ones, for whom balls were covered with it in many colors and patterns. But who was it that brought crewels out into the light again, and is there any history attached to the re-introduction of the material?

## A U. S. PAPER COMBINE.

A meeting, says a Chicago despatch, intended to be secret, was held at Chicago on February 3rd, by the Manufacturers' Paper Company, of New York, and representatives of the mills not members of this company. The Manufacturers' Paper Company is a trust embracing all the larger manufacturing concerns, among them being the Ontario Paper Company, the Herkimer Paper Company, the Montague Paper Company, the Watertown Paper Mills, and the Pettibone Paper Company. The trust controls about two-thirds the production of print paper, and supplies nearly all the large dailies. In fact its sales already exceed its capacity, and it is compelled to contract with mills not in the combine to enable it to fill its orders. This fact led the directors of the trust at a regular meeting held in New York two weeks ago to consider measures for the extension of the trust, and the absorption of additional mills not already under its control. The capital stock was increased, and overtures were made to outside mills, and a secret meeting called for February 3rd in Chicago. The mills which it was desired to bring into the combine were invited to send representatives. These mills are chiefly located at Rochester, Niagara, Watertown, N.Y.; Lynn, Mass., and Appleton, N.H. Print paper is now sold in this country twenty per cent. below the price at which it can be manufactured abroad. There is besides this margin a duty of 25 per cent. on it. This, it is argued by the trust, is ample protection, and all it needs is perfect organization to double the present price of paper as often as it is desired. The present price of print paper is about 3 to 3 1/2 cents a pound, which is a fair price, and leaves a good margin to the producers. A number of wholesale paper dealers were seen yesterday, and expressed it as their belief that the object of the trust was ultimately to freeze out the small concerns by offering them inducements to join the trust, and after securing control of the mills resort to measures which would prove detrimental to the small manufacturers. It is not the opinion of these wholesale men that the trust would be successful in securing a monopoly of the print paper industry.



## THE DAISY AIR RIFLE.

Messrs. H. A. Nelson & Sons have been appointed sole wholesale selling agents for the "New Daisy" air rifle. As will be seen in the engraving it is a very good line. It has been on the market long enough for dealers to know that it is good in every respect. All metal parts are beautifully nickel plated. Every gun is tested before leaving the factory. The chief points about the gun are strength, ease of manipulation, force and accuracy in shooting, lowness of price. Messrs. H. A. Nelson & Sons are quoting the skeleton stock rifle at \$10.80 per dozen and the wood stock at \$12 per dozen. At these prices the result should be a very big sale. They have already taken a large number of orders to be delivered out of the first shipment, so that orders had better be placed early. The illustration shows the wood stock.