

And through the wreaths of floating dusk upcurled
Rare sunrise flowed.

He tells how FREEDOM "reared her beautiful
Bold brow" and robed in WISDOM "her words did
gather thunder as they ran ;"

" No sword
Of wrath her right arm whirled,
But one poor poet's scroll, and with *his* word,
She shook the world."

Tennyson declares that the poet

" Sings of what the world will be
When the years have died away."

What is there like the dominion of poetry? Empires fade and pass away; old Homer, the Greek of 3,000 years ago, is as fresh yet as ever, even under all the difficulties of translation. His works seem to be part and parcel of nature. Every true poet is a portion of nature, an elemental power in the world. It is not that his opinions may always be the most accordant with the opinions of his times, but it is because there is in his soul a sense of truth, love, power and beauty, and he awakens this sense in others; and in proportion as this is realized, then thought takes a bolder flight, and man looks abroad with a nobler regard on his fellow-man; then freedom is at hand, and, together with political liberty, all that constitutes mental freedom.

Alfred Tennyson sought noble ends by noble means through noble motives. Fame might follow him, he had neither task nor time to follow her.

H. M.

A Summer Survey

MOST people have read in Longfellow's poem of the country of Hiawatha, in the land of the Ojibways, by the "Big-Sea-Water," but probably very few have seen it as it really is. The Canadian Pacific Railway passes through it now, but, owing to the woods being burnt off all along the track, to avoid the risk of the trains being blocked by bush-fires, the country appears to those passing through as a sort of desolate wilderness. Anyone who wishes to get an idea of the real appearance and character of the country must leave the railway track and strike off for himself into the interior.

This I had an opportunity of doing last summer, being a member of a surveying party exploring in this district to the north and west of Lake Superior. Hilly and rocky and worthless for agricultural purposes, it has been left in its original condition unaltered by the hand of civilization. Its hills and rocks, however, while they prevent the country from being settled, add greatly to its natural beauty. For, scattered over the country in every direction, are countless lakes of all sizes and forms, occupying every hollow and valley in the hills. Many of these lakes, dotted with islands and enclosed by the forest-covered hills, possess a beauty of scenery which may well rival that of the famous

lakes of the Scottish Highlands. The great profusion of these lakes affords a ready access to any part of the country. In fact, owing to the dense bush which covers the whole country, and the utter absence of roads or clearings, the only practicable method of travel is by water. Therefore, all exploring parties travel by canoes through the lakes, carrying their canoes and outfit from lake to lake by trails through the bush, camping every night wherever they may happen to be, and making up any deficiency in provisions by the fish and game of all sorts with which the country abounds.

The only permanent inhabitants are Indians the remnant of the Ojibways. They are quite friendly, but almost totally uncivilized. They dwell after the fashion of their ancestors in birch bark wigwams, and live principally by hunting and fishing, coming in every spring to the Hudson Bay Company's posts to trade their furs for provisions and ammunition. They lead a wandering life, travelling in the summer by birch bark canoes, and in the winter by dog-sledges or on snow shoes. The white man has not as yet dispossessed them of their territory, probably for the very simple reason that he has no use for it himself.

As the country is now, it has probably been for ages past and will continue to be. In its natural features it is a very typical portion of an immense area of Canada, that is, of what is sometimes called the Laurentian Region. Roughly speaking, this may be said to include the whole of the country north of the River St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes, with the exception of what is known as the Ontario peninsula, and of the lower part of the Ottawa Valley. With these two exceptions, the whole of this vast territory is similar to the district which I have attempted to describe. This similarity is due to the geological structure of the country. For all the Laurentian region is underlaid by hard Archæan rocks, which impart the hilly nature to the ground. Having been swept bare by the ice in the Glacial Epoch, the country has not since acquired sufficient soil for agricultural purposes. Therefore, while it is of great value to Canada from the lumber which it affords, and in certain places for its mineral deposits, it seems probable that it will never be colonized, except in a few of the valleys, and that only in the more southern portion.

But although from an economic point of view much of the country is comparatively worthless, its beauty and value as a summer resort are becoming pretty generally recognized. Places, such as the Lake of the Thousand Islands, the Muskoka District and many others are yearly visited by members of camping parties, and those who have once tried it are unanimous in advising anyone who may have an opportunity to visit the country even if it is only for the purpose of seeing what it is like. The pleasures of camp life, of being free for a season from the vexations and restrictions of civilized life, and the excellence of the fishing and hunting may well reward anyone who may take a trip to the "Highlands of Canada."

H.B.C