

LITERATURE.

OUR FOOT-BALL TEAM.

WERE a set of foot-ballers as you can see,
Fresh from the midst of a fierce melee,
Tattered and battered all covered with mud,
Ready to use the all cleansing sud.

We've a rattling good team perhaps you don't know it,
But give us a chance and we're ready to show it;
Sometimes we lose but that's not our fault,
Tis' the stupid old referee, not worth his salt.

At half we have Pirie, Twittie and Eek,
And Parkyn with his long kicks plays our full back;
While Smellie and Farrell look after the quarter,
Though compared with the rest they're quite a bit shorter.

In the centre we've Marquis all muscle and bone,
But when in the scrimmage he's not quite alone;
For help he has Cameron, Copeland, Morgan and Chown
Who showed the McGill boys how to "do things up brown."

Then Gillie and Gus, two brothers, have we,
A fine pair of Gandiers, as you easily see;
And Shorty McCammon who by hook or by crook,
Settles disputes not by rules in the book.

And as for our wings they are pretty well feathered,
Six feet if one, when properly measured;
On the right we have Rankin, on the left we play White,
And to see them "get there" is an elegant sight.

THE CANADIAN POETS—CAMERON.

(From King's College Record.)

THE introductory portion of my task is comparatively easy, as the life of the late George Frederick Cameron prefaces his "Lyrics"; I give it as there given.

HIS LIFE.

"George Frederick Cameron, the author of the following poems, the eldest son of James Grant Cameron and Jessie Sutherland, was born in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, September 24th, 1854. He received his preliminary education at the High School of his native town, and had read the greater part of Virgil and Cicero in the original before his fourteenth year. Even at this age he employed the most of his spare time in poetry. Removing with his family to Boston in the spring of 1869, he entered the Boston University of Law, in 1872. After graduating he entered the law office of Dean, Butler and Abbot in the same city. From this period until 1882 his attention was mainly devoted to literature, and he was a frequent contributor to the *Commercial Bulletin*, *Traveller*, *Courier and Transcript* of the new Athens of America. In 1882 he entered Queen's University and was the prize poet in 1883.

In March of the same year he became editor of the *Kingston News*, which position he held until a few weeks before his death. The latter event took place during a visit to the country, where, on the 17th of September, he expired of heart disease after a few hours sickness. For the last two years of his life he had been greatly troubled with insomnia, getting not more than from two to three hours sleep per night.

He married Ella, the eldest daughter of Billings Amey, Esq., of Millhaven, on the 22nd of August, 1883. His wife and an infant daughter survive him.

That the author did not bubble over in his verse with loyalty to the throne and all it represents was perhaps his infirmity. I tried to persuade him of the advantages such a course would offer to a poor poet like himself, but I regret to say to no purpose. Whether the reason of failure lay in the weakness of the cause or in his want of faith in my sincerity is a moot question with me to this day."

The "Lyrics" are edited by the poet's brother, Chas. J. Cameron, M.A., editor of Queen's College JOURNAL, whose ability and affection entitled him to the fullest sympathy of the now silent singer, and won for him commendation in lines that shew a kinship closer than that of blood.

The following is from the editor's Preface:

In accordance with the last wishes of the author, the first portion of his manuscript is here submitted to your judgment. This volume represents one-fourth of his life work. If it is well received, the rest will follow in due course. This is a Canadian contribution to our common literature, and I hope that it may be thought by the old world a worthy interpreter of our younger and broader national life.

Of the lyrics on Freedom, those on Cuba were written between the ages of fourteen and nineteen, on France about his eighteenth or nineteenth year, and on Russia between then and the time of his death. The verses prefixed to each are from an address written by the author while a student of Queen's University, and inserted as an introduction to that which follows.

In its issue of Friday, Sept. 18th, 1855, the *Montreal Witness* contained, as its first item of Canadian news, the following:

"On Thursday night, George F. Cameron, late editor of the *Kingston News*, died suddenly. He was a graceful writer and a prominent Canadian poet."

This was the sum of the story of his life, so far as the world could tell it. The high position which he took in Canadian literature he won almost in a day, on a few lyrics published in his own paper and in the columns of Queen's College JOURNAL. The preface to this conclusion you will find here.

Young, as the world counts time, at thirty years of age he had run the whole gamut of its pleasures and its pains. There was to him a terrible sameness about it all.