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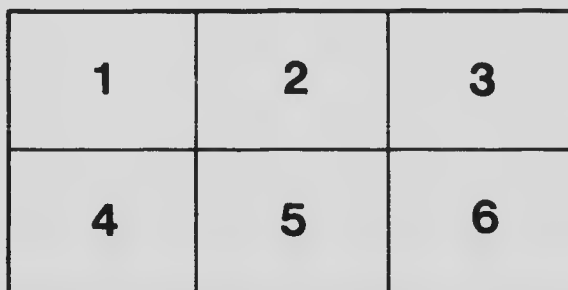
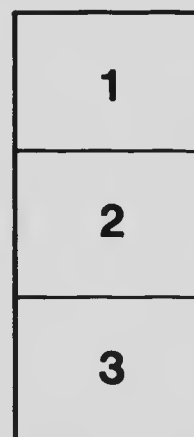
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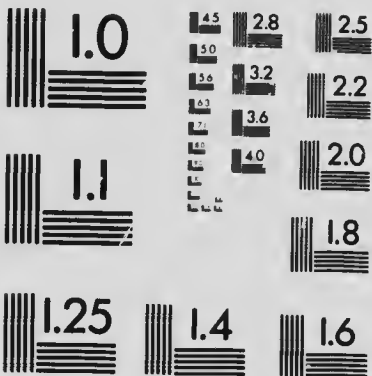
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**No. 1.  
A Canadian Calendar  
by John Murray Gibbon**

# CANADA CHAP- BOOKS

**No. 1. A Canadian Calendar**

*By* JOHN MURRAY GIBBON

**Canadian Bookman**  
GARDEN CITY PRESS  
Ste. Anne de Bellevue, P.Q.  
Canada

# January



**W**INTER the Witch caresses  
The sunny, windless skies,  
While indoors on the hearth  
We dream day-dreams,  
Or through the faded flowers  
Damascened  
In blue and silver  
Upon the windows  
We watch her sweep the stars into the  
night.

# February



**A**S in dreams  
Once and again  
The eager heart repels  
Fears and impalpable phantasies.  
So breathless  
Upon the windblown, drifting trails,  
Buffeted wayfarers  
We struggle with snowswirls  
Of February gales.



# March



**O**UR gentle alchemist, the sun  
Dissolves each snowfield to a silvery  
lagoon.

Sweet running maple sap!  
You sing of frosty night and balmy day,  
And sweet is the wind  
That brings the robin to our North  
To chug-chug with his mate  
Over a new home in bare branches.

So our hearts too  
Must dare a new adventure.

# April



**B**OBOLINK and thrush,  
Aerial pilgrims,  
Chant in the orchard  
Plainsong of spring.

Is there in the South  
Altar more beautiful  
Than apple branches  
Twined in reredos  
Of lilac and maroon?

And now the river  
Bursting its cerements of ice  
Reverberates  
Gospel of resurrection.

Here, here  
In April  
Are the stairs of Heaven.

# May



**D**AWN of pearl and of mist  
From the amethyst—  
Morning stained with rays  
Of chrysoprase—  
Midday veiled with gauze  
Spun from turquoise—  
Afternoon sapphire  
Skies to admire—  
Eve a chalice full,  
Crystal cool—  
And as a moonstone, light  
With dim lustre, Night.

# June



**B**AREHEADED and barefoot  
With rosy bouquet  
Humming, humming  
In dances June,

June, and the bees  
Honey hunting among the roses,  
And in the orchard an oriole  
Flashing his gold,

June with tresses of cinnabar  
And coral lips  
And eyes so blue, so blue—  
Give me back my heart!

# July



**I** WILL to the mountains  
Along cool trails amid the glaciers  
And Alpine meadows framed with  
larch  
And the red Indian Paint Brush.

I will to the mountains  
And to the lakes of melted jade  
Where the dark forest  
Broods in stained reflection  
Under crystalline skies.

There overhead  
Steep jagged cliffs  
Rear their defiant shields,  
Aeons of snow,  
Against the shafts of July suns.

# August



**N**OW the great trajectory  
Of blazing glory  
Is shot by the sun  
From the low horizon  
Across the August blue,  
Spraying the leagues of wheat  
With golden hue  
And shimmer of heat.  
Until into the dark trenches  
Of night it plunges.

# September



**B**ATHING their wings in dew  
The Winds of Far Away  
Out of the Long Night flew  
Here to the Early Day.

They called the world awake,  
And away the mists they rolled  
From the fringe of the forest and lake  
With its green and russet and gold.

Gold and russet and green!  
They uncovered the gay Fall dress  
And the silken red-gold sheen  
Of the trees with their airy caress.

They brought a kiss from the Moon  
As cool as their own cool lips,  
As sweet as the rose in June  
That the bee for its honey sips.

# September

Continued



**Kiss and away! But the Sun  
Came up as a lover instead,  
And never a maiden was won  
That flushed to a rosier red  
Than the fringe of the lake as they fled.**



# October



**F**ALLING falling leaves!  
And indoors  
Cellars sweet-smelling with apples,  
Fair hands busy with canning and  
stores for the winter.

Morning in frosty apron,  
Noon in a bonnet of blue,  
Night with a cool dark cloak overtaking  
the day.

Once in a while a sky a-swirl with rain  
And winds in wild cavalcades,  
But always,  
On the greensward,  
Falling, falling leaves!

# November



**G**REY, gaunt and sere  
Is the old year.  
Flake upon flake  
Falls the heartache,  
Only for a while  
The Indian Summer  
Comes with a smile  
A late-comer,  
An afterthought,  
So that naught  
Of the old year  
May lack good cheer.  
And you remember  
A sweet November.

# December



**T**HERE is a window in a quiet room  
Over an orchard now of apples bare  
Though in September no more  
sweet perfume  
Filled any wind with a more fragrant air.

And in that silence through the window-  
bars  
Through the deep azure that pervades  
the sky  
Prick'd only by innumerable stars  
I see a world of phantom passers-by.

I see the fairies of a winter's night  
Float from the tree-tops to the path be-  
low  
And pattern laces with the clear moon-  
light  
And shadows of the branches on the  
snow.

# December

Continued



And where the icicles hang from the eaves  
Dropping their crystal pillars to the  
ground

I see the throne that only he achieves  
Who wins a queen by all the fairies  
crowned.

Was that a sleigh bell or a magic note  
Played in a dream to hearts that under-  
stand?

Surely I hear there with the dancers float  
The clash of cymbals in an elfin band.

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