

**LAYS OF THE 'TRUE
NORTH,' AND OTHER
CANADIAN POEMS**

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Lays of the "True North," and Other Canadian Poems by Agnes Maule Machar

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Lays of the 'True North,'

AND

OTHER CANADIAN POEMS.

BY

AGNES MAULE MACHAR,

AUTHOR OF

'STORIES OF NEW FRANCE,' 'MARJORIE'S CANADIAN WINTER,'
'ROLAND GRAEME, KNIGHT,' ETC.

SECOND AND ENLARGED EDITION.

'And that true North, whereof we lately heard
A strain to shame us, "Keep ye to yourselves,
So loyal is too costly! friends,—your love
Is but a burden; loose the bond and go."
—Is this the tone of empire?'

TENNYSON: *Ode to the Queen.*

LONDON:
ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.
TORONTO: THE COPP, CLARK CO., LIMITED.

1902.

To
HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY
Queen Victoria,

THESE PAGES ARE, BY KIND PERMISSION,
RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

OUR SOVEREIGN LADY, whose fair woman's hand
Has held so firm and well for three-score years,
Through changing cloud and sunshine, smiles and tears,
The sceptre of our Britain's sea-girt land,
Extending far, as with a magic wand,
Order and peace, the freedom that endears
That ancient name which all the world reveres!
About thy throne two generations stand
And call thee blessed, for each peaceful year
Thou, 'by God's grace,' hast kept thy sway serene.
More prized by thee than gems of lustre clear,
Or minute-guns, or pomp of martial sheen—
The love that binds to thee thy people dear,
And wakes the world-wide prayer—'GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!'

June, 1897.

PREFACE.

A NUMBER of these poems have appeared in periodicals and anthologies—some under the Author's own name ; some under the *nom de plume* of 'Fidelis,' well known in Canada. They are now collected for the first time, with the addition of others hitherto unpublished.

NOTE TO SECOND EDITION.

As will be seen from the dedication, the first edition was published soon after the Diamond Jubilee of our late beloved Queen Victoria.

KINGSTON, CANADA.

A WELCOME FROM CANADA.

TO THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF CORNWALL AND YORK.

FOR sake of her we loved so well and long,
Whose reign shall live in story and in song,
The heart and centre of our Empire's fame,
And the bright age that bears her honoured name,
And our great Empire, spread from sea to sea,
Heir of the ages, bulwark of the free ;
Oh, Prince, with heart and soul we welcome thee !

For sake of him in whom we love to trace
Her earnest purpose and her royal grace,
To whom a sorrowing people turned to sing
With loyal heart and voice, ' God save our King !'
As once in youthful prime o'er stormy sea
We welcomed *him*, so now we welcome *thee*,
Heir of his house and throne our King to be !

For sake of her who came, a fair young bride,
Leaving her home, and all she loved beside,
When ' Norman, Celt and Saxon ' thronged to greet
The conquering glamour of her presence sweet,
We greet her son, and by his side we see
Another Princess ; Saxon, Norman we,
And Celt, yet, Britons, welcome her and thee !

In the long future, when the changeful years
Have brought their added weight of cares and fears,
May these fair realms, seen in life's morning bright,
A vision live, in memory's tender light.
From ' Greater Britain,' spread from sea to sea,
' Neath the old red-cross banner of the free,
Ten thousand welcomes rise to her and thee !

KINGSTON, CANADA,
October, 1901.

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