

WILLIAM E. MARSHALL.

An Appreciation.

BY CHARLES MORSE.

When William E. Marshall paid the debt of nature at his home in Bridgewater, N.S., on the 23rd of May last, Canada was bereaved of a citizen who served well his day and generation, and the legal profession in this country lost a member whose qualities of mind and spirit enriched its traditions in quite a notable way. True, Mr. Marshall retired from active practice while still a young man, but not before he had exhibited fine talents as an advocate. He did not regard his service in the temple of the blind goddess as a light thing. He was no wastrel of time or talent. An eager student in preparing for his call to the Nova Scotian Bar, he felt that he should not confine his reading to the limited curriculum of his day. We who knew him then recall his enthusiasm for Main's researches into the origins of legal and social institutions; nor do we forget that Austin's *Province of Jurisprudence Determined* was no sibylline book to him.

It was Marshall's destiny to teach us in this country what has been long known in older communities, namely, that there is no necessary antagonism between the law and the more liberal fields of human endeavor. Possessing the gifts of both artist and poet, he employed his leisure when in practice and afterwards in office for the cultivation of these gifts. We know from examples he has left us that he might have achieved distinction had he wholly devoted himself to the art of the sculptor. As a poet his fame chiefly rests on "Brookfield," a threnody of great power and beauty, inspired by the loss of one of his dearest friends. He had a wonderful love for his fellow-men, and his

heart was open to all who sought his acquaintance. The magnetic charm of his personality is shown in the following extract from what the present writer was privileged to say in one of our magazines during Mr. Marshall's life-time:—

“I was walking in his company over a noble sand-beach on the Nova Scotian coast, listening the while to his recitation of Keats's ‘Ode on a Grecian Urn’—which he dearly loves. Unnoticed by Marshall we were overtaken by a young fisher lad, whose attention was arrested by the music of the words that fell from the poet's lips, and he waited for no invitation to join us. I shall never forget the quick response in the boy's eyes to the magic of the challenge,—

‘Who are these coming to the sacrifice?’

He stayed with us until silence broke the enchantment, and then slipped away still unseen of the man who all unwittingly had unlocked for him the door of poetic emotion.”

EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING.

*Mount Royal Hotel, Montreal, September 4th, 5th
and 6th.*

During the early part of June, the President of the Association visited Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa and conferred with the members of the Council in these cities concerning the Programme of the Eighth Annual Meeting which will be held at Montreal on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the 4th, 5th and 6th of September. The Committee in charge of arrangements have been actively at work for some months, but, as a few details have still to be adjusted, the draft Programme will not be printed until early in July. A copy of the programme will be mailed in due course to all members of the Association.