

future. He can depict with equal happiness the stir and bustle of the great ship-yard and the graceful motion of the Spanish *danseuse*, the orchestra of the concert hall and the racing speed of the clean-built boat at a regatta. His descriptions of scenery, whether foreign or Icelandic, and his portraiture of men are instinct with individual life and vigour. Every natural phenomenon, — the Echo, the Fata Morgana, the Snow, the Polar Ice — all receive a deeper meaning. Benediktsson's language is trenchant, his style imposing and stately. Had he written in the language of a great nation and not in that of the old Thor and Odin, he would certainly by this time be a world-famous poet.

Of religious poets of the nineteenth century *the Rev. Valdimar Briem* (1848—), D.D. honoris causâ at the university of Reykjavík, and Vice-bishop of Skálholt diocese since 1909, must especially be mentioned here. Besides his "*Bibluljóð*" (portions of the Bible worked into metrical form) in two big volumes and some other smaller works, he has given us a number of hymns, many of which are among the most cherished of those contained in the hymnal of the Established Church of Iceland.

I cannot within the space allowed me here mention all the younger poets who are worthy of being mentioned. A few names must suffice to show that Icelandic poetry is still flourishing and exuberant: Bjarni Jónsson frá Vogu († 1927); Thorsteinn Gíslason; Guðm. Friðjónsson; Guðm. Guðmundsson († 1919); Sigfús Blöndal; Guðm. Magnússon († 1918); Jónas Guðlaugsson († 1916); Sigurður Sigurðsson frá Arnarholti; Jakob Thorarensen; Stefán frá Hvítadal; Jakob Jóh. Smári; Davíð Stefánsson frá Fagraskógi; Jón Magnússon; and Jóhannes úr Kötlum. — Mrs. Ólöf Sigurðardóttir; Mrs. Th. Thoroddsen; the sisters Miss Ólína and Mrs. Herdís Andrésdætur; and Mrs. Unnur Bjarklind (Pseudonym Hulda), have all earned considerable reputation for their poetry, and more especially for having revived and polished the old rhapsodies.

Of Icelandic-American poets the following may be mentioned: Kristinn Stefánsson (1856—1916); Jóhann Magnús Bjarnason; Kristján N. Júlíus; Guttormur J. Guttormsson; Þorsteinn Þ. Þorsteinsson; Einar P. Jónsson; and Mrs. Jakobina Johnson.

PROSE

The most original literary achievements of the Icelanders are the *Sagas*, the earliest written monuments of which date from about 1130;