

the editor of newspapers, first in America (Canada) and then in Iceland. Kvaran, who is the greatest now living artist among Icelandic novelists, has written a number of long novels descriptive of town life, and a series of brilliant short stories dealing chiefly with the struggles and miseries of the poor whom he depicts with keen understanding and profound sympathy. He has for years been the champion of psychic research and spiritualism in Iceland, and his view of life as well as his faith in the power of mercy, brotherhood, and forgiveness are plainly apparent in his novels. Kvaran is also a fine lyric poet, and has published a small volume of verse. *Jón Stefánsson* (pseudonym: *Thorgils gjallandi*, 1851—1915) who was a farmer, first published a small volume of short stories, written under the influence of foreign realism, and then brought out his best novel '*Upp við fossa*' (By the Falls) dealing with country life. Later he published a volume of stories of animals displaying his close sympathy with, and thorough understanding of, these dumb servants of man. *Jóhann Magnús Bjarnason* (1866—) went to America (Canada) in his ninth year, and was educated there. He has written two long novels, and many short stories. Bjarnason has an exuberant imagination, and his sketches of the life and hardships of his countrymen during their first years in the New World are ably executed. *Guðmundur Friðjónsson* (1869—), a farmer, is a versatile writer who has already published several volumes of short stories dealing almost exclusively with country life. His characters are perhaps confined within a limited range, but they are skilfully drawn, many of them with a master's hand, and his style, peculiarly his own, is both vigorous and full of metaphor. The author's view of life, his dislike to new-fangledness of any kind, and his faith in, and sturdy adherence to, those old virtues which have proved of lasting worth to the nation in past centuries, are plainly discernible in all his works. Friðjónsson has also published three volumes of vigorous and original poetry. *Guðmundur Magnússon* (pseudonym: *Jón Trausti*, 1873—1918), a printer, the most voluminous of all Icelandic novelists, has in a series of novels, long and short, painted Icelandic life past and present. He is a keen observer with a rare richness of imagination, and though some of his stories are loose and his style at times faulty, there can, on the whole, be no question of his high qualities as storyteller, and several of his short stories must be placed very high in the rank of Icelandic fiction. Trausti knows better than anyone else the life and struggle of the common people. Professor *Sigurður Nordal* (1886—) has in a volume of short stories and prose-poems, some