

strong and individual; and his lyrics as terse and tuneful as songs should always be.

None of the lyrics, by the way, is interposed as a sop for the frivolous. Each and all, they spring straight from the context, and are introduced only where song can better express the thought, or rather the emotion, than could the more cumbersome medium.

Most of the lyrics are Pandora's; and perhaps the best of them is the one beginning

"I stood within the heart of God;
It seemed a place that I had known:
(I was blood-sister to the clod,
Blood-brother to the stone.)"

which has a distinctly modern note withal:

Those who saw in Mr. Moody's "Poems," some three years since, the assurance that a new poet had risen in America, will welcome the present volume as a confirmation of their predictions. No American poet of the younger generation is doing work of equal importance with that of this native of Indiana, who was educated at Harvard and till recently was attached to the teaching staff of Chicago University. It has been suggested that he would do well to take for his next work a theme that appeals more strongly to Americans than the legendry of Greece may be supposed to do. If his object is to achieve popularity and fortune, the hint is a good one; but it is quite conceivable that poetry is the gainer by a course that may be the reverse of profitable to the poet himself. Mr. Moody has shown so clearly, however, his power to deal with themes of paramount interest to his own time and his people, that there would be reason to fear the consequences of his devoting a poetic drama to some theme peculiarly American. In the meantime, we may look forward with pleasurable anticipations to the completion of the classic trilogy of which the second part is now before us.

J. B. G.

"The Fire-Bringer" * is, it seems, "the first member of a trilogy on the Promethean theme, of which 'The Masque of Judgment,' already published, is the second member"; but the connection between the two poems is informal, and the action of each complete in itself. As preface or argument an extract from Apollodorus is prefixed to the present poem, telling of Deukalion's landing on Parnassus after the flood sent by Zeus to destroy the men of the brazen age; of the turning into men and women, respectively, of the stones thrown over their heads by Deukalion and Pyrrha; and of the theft of fire from Heaven for which Prometheus will suffer punishment in the last member of the trilogy. Of equal importance with the three characters named is Pandora; and next come Æolus, Lykophon, Alcyone, Rhodope, and the Stone Men, the Stone Women, and a priest of Zeus. Mr. Moody has chosen a theme familiar to readers of poetry, but has treated it with such originality, force, and beauty as to justify his choice. His blank-verse is not only fluent and melodious, but

* "The Fire-Bringer." By WILLIAM VAUGHN MOODY.
Houghton, Mifflin & Co.