

No Second London

Ontario's London isn't second,
But prime for its clean air and clear Thames--
However Beauty's neatly reckoned--
Via pale architecture of blossoms
Or neighbourhoods that thrive as nurseries,
Or extremities that harbour dreams, fruit
Of universities' Science sorceries--
Or John Robarts's visionary statute--
To imagine a province of students
And a city of Commerce, Culture, and Law--
And Agriculture that rewards Prudence,
Erecting harvests that Shakespeare foresaw.
There's a first London, but this one isn't
Second, being less dour and thus more pleasant.

-- **George Elliott Clarke**
7th Parliamentary Poet Laureate (2016-17)