

moved to Manitoba and practised his profession in Brandon. Appointed a Q.C. by Dominion Government, 15th February, 1890. Was a town councillor of Stratford in 1880-'81, and a member and subsequently Chairman of Public School Board. In 1882 was elected first Mayor of the City of Brandon, and re-elected in 1884. Was Chairman of the Western Judicial District Board of Manitoba, 1884. Was first returned to parliament at the general election of 1887, and re-elected at last general election.

Sworn in as Minister of the Interior and Superintendent General of Indian Affairs on the 17th day of October, 1892, and re-elected by acclamation on appointment of Office.

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### GASPARD Le DUC

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A STORY OF THE EARLY DAYS ON THE RED RIVER.

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#### CHAPTER I.

Away back in the first years of the century, the white population of the Red River Valley was comprised within the walls of three or four trading posts, and a few log huts, which early collected in the vicinity of that known then as "The Forks."

One September afternoon at the door of one of these huts were seated Jean Levecque, the proprietor, and his daughter Marie. The hut stood in a sequestered position on the north bank of the Assinaboine, considerably nearer to its junction with the Red than the fort itself. Slowly a sound, unheard on those waters now, as it would be unheeded, though hailed often then with emotions as peculiar to the time perhaps, grew till it seemed to burden the dreamy air. It seemed to come from down the stream. A sound that mocked and

eluded the ear it charmed, uncertain and fitful, yet in that wilderness of silence a phenomenon of lively note. It was the song of voyageurs.

Little wonder that the faces of Jean Levecque and his daughter were alive with keenest interest, for in his younger days Jean had himself been a voyageur. For years, in the service of the Canadian traders he had traversed the sinuous waterways of the wild and wonderful west, the home, then, of the wild beast and the Indian, and of these alone. A perfect type of his class, he had loved with a very passion his hazardous calling, and had faced with laugh and song its toil and dangers for the wild freedom and excitement of the life it gave. But his adventurous spirit had found a new enchantment in chasing the buffalo on the western plains. Yielding to the new charm he built the hut in which he lived. Others of his countrymen followed his example and settled down on the banks of the Assinaboine. Here his daughter was born; and here, after he had laid to rest on the sunny slope of the river bank her Indian mother, he had watched and tended her through infancy and girlhood; and here, after he had been brought home from the chase crippled for life by the fall of his horse, had that daughter cared for him with the one thought apparently of repaying, if possible, his almost idolatrous love for her.

The sound to which they listened increased, and soon a canoe shot round the bend below and the song burst into full chorus, while a cheer went up from the little crowd already assembled at the landing place.

"Ah! that is one of the partners," said Jean. "Some of the good old boys will be with him. Run, Marie, and see if any of my old friends are there, and ask them to come."

In the bow of the canoe, as it glid-