

finesse. For us who read that book after forty years, and who are almost posterity for the men mentioned by Mr. Dufour, we must admit that his judgement about his contemporaries was almost always correct, and that his predictions about their future were quite prophetic. For instance, when he speaks of John Slidell, the great Louisiana politician, so widely known afterwards through the "Trent" affair, he portrays the wily diplomat in the most graphic manner. 'Esquisses Locales' is a very useful work for the student of the history and literature of Louisiana. He can see in looking over the pages of this little book all manner of men of the old régime: lawyers, statesmen, journalists, prose writers, and poets. I only regret that Mr. Dufour did not extend his gallery of portraits to the physicians of the time, of whom so many were distinguished, and that he did not give us a glimpse of old plantation life, by presenting to us some of our refined, chivalric and intelligent sugar planters. It is a great loss to our literature that "Un Inconnu," who was an able lawyer, has produced only one work, for such a brilliant pen could have given us some charming comedies of real life.

In the parish of St. James, there is at a distance of five miles from the river a settlement in the woods; it is called "la Grande Pointe," and is very prosperous. The inhabitants are all descendants of the Acadian exiles, and have retained the energy of their fathers. The men are great deer and duck hunters, and cultivate the land; the women are very pious and industrious. It is there that old Perique manufactured the famous tobacco *carrots* which bear his name. 'Le Destin d'un Brin de Mousse,'¹⁰ by Mlle. Désirée Martin is an autobiography, and reveals to us the daily life of these worthy people. The author speaks with great reverence of her parents, especially of her grandfather, a patriarch surrounded by a progeny of seventy-eight children and grandchildren. From having been a most happy "gardeuse d'oies," Mlle. Martin became an unhappy nun. After many years passed in a convent, she retired to "la Grande Pointe," and related her story and that of her ancestors to her little nephews. Although an ex-nun, there is not a word of irreverence against religion in the book; the author seems to have been of a thoroughly truthful and honest disposition. She communicates to us all her feelings and we can but respect her

¹⁰ Mlle. Désirée Martin, 'Les Veillées d'une Soeur ou le Destin d'un Brin de Mousse.'

¹ Vol. 16mo, 230 pp. Imprim. Cosmopolite, Nouvelle-Orléans, 1877.