

Allart wrote in 1880, "It is a pleasure to talk with the "habitants" and to hear that good French speech without any patois, even elegant, but with a very curious archaic tournure".

Mr. Victor Du Bled, one of the collaborators of the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, Paris, wrote in this excellent review of February 15th, 1885, "It can be affirmed with all the serious travellers who have visited this country (Canada) that the Canadians still speak the French of the 16th and 17th centuries, that so savory and robust language of Touraine and the Isle of France, with its special character and Gallic *tournures*. One finds again in that idiom, numerous original expressions, old coin struck with a good die, dating from Rabelais and Montaigne, which we could use to advantage although they are not recorded in the dictionary of the Academy. Moreover, there does not exist, as was thoughtlessly expressed, a Canadian patois, and except for the intonation, the inhabitants who come out of the primary schools express themselves more correctly than our workers and peasants". Mr. Gailly de Taurines wrote, in 1894, in his book, "*La Nation Canadienne*" : "In a general way, it can be said the popular language of the Canadians is infinitely better and more correct than that of France".¹ Viscount Robert de Caix, "one who has most closely observed Canada" in the opinion of the former French consul at Montreal, wrote in 1904 in the "*Revue des questions diplomatiques et coloniales*" : "Among the educated people of Canada, the language is excellent, and of very good form among the inhabitants of the rural districts, exclusively French".

Doctor Labori, the great French barrister, on his return to Paris after a few months visit in Canada, wrote in *Je sais tout* of March 15, 1914, "The scorn many Englishmen and Americans have for the French of our Canadian brothers is very amusing. In Canada, the French language is distinguished by a rather marked native accent which is not that of Normandie, Picardie,

¹ Page 246.