

remarkable fidelity. The hero of the book, Pierre de St. Luc, and the other characters, such as Dr. Rivard, Antonio Cabrera, Trim and Tom, and the Coco-Létart family, are all drawn by a master-hand. One feels that the author is a talented artist, that he knows how to avail himself of the resources of the language in depicting places, analysing the passions, spurring our interest and keeping it up to the end.

With a warm imagination, he gives a vivid coloring to his creations, multiplies scenes of passion, critical situations, terrible dangers, wonderful escapes and comical adventures. A real thinker, too, he boldly grapples with the problem of slavery (he writes long before the American war), and seeks a solution with a humanity of feeling which does him credit.

His style is characterized by rapidity of movement, warmth, brilliancy and clearness. When he describes the rich and luxurious nature of the South his pen becomes a brush; when he gives the topography of places it becomes a guiding hand; when he sketches the noble features of St. Luc, or the sinister face of Dr. Rivard, we see them act and hear them speak. Many of the pages of this novel will bear comparison with the best pages of contemporary French novelists. M. de Boucherville possesses in a high degree the two great qualities required by a novelist: a dramatic imagination and the art of writing, and to the union of these qualities the charm of his work is due.

The second noted writer of fiction which deserves to be studied is Antoine Gérin-Lajoie, the author of *Jean Rivard, Husbandman and Political Economist*. Lajoie was born at Yamachiche in 1824. His father was a farmer remarkable for the keenness of his mind, his mother was distinguished for her wit, education and winning face. She had eighteen children of whom Antoine was the second. Highly gifted, he was sent to the college of Nicolet. In a short time he stood at the head of his class. At eighteen he published a tragedy which met with decided success. It was dedicated to Lord Metcalfe, who sent him his congratulations and the sum of twenty-five dollars. In 1837 the rebellion in Canada and the thought of the *patriotes* in exile made a deep impression upon him, and inspired the following song, well known to every French-Canadian:

"Un Canadien errant,
Banni deses foyers,
Parcourait en pleurant
Des pays étrangers." &c.