

"Where are we any way?"

"At Vernon, gentlemen, in the State of Vermont."

Were ever men so thunder-struck! The whole night slipped away in the merriment created by our poet, and we thought we were only a couple of hours together!

But our laureate does not wholly reserve his talents as a story teller for his friends: he uses them to some purpose outside of Canada, by dissipating the mists of doubt and misconception that obscure the early history of the first French-Canadian colonists who settled in this country—mists that still befog the minds of Frenchmen in the Old Land.

"It is highly gratifying," he remarked to me lately; "to see what a deep interest educated people take in our national affairs. Five years ago," he continued, "I was the guest of Mgr. Thomas, the eminent archbishop of Rouen, since raised to the cardinalate. One day he entertained a large company of distinguished clergymen and requested me to recite some of my historic poems. I did so. I then ventured to declaim the *Excommuniés*, where, as you know, I described the death of the last rebels under English domination who were banned by Mgr. Briand and buried in unconsecrated ground. I had serious misgivings as to how my theme would be received by the present company; but I was soon reassured by the deep impression it evidently made on the worthy prelate. At last when I had read the concluding couplet:

" 'Sans demander à Dieu si j'ai tort en cela,
Je découvre mon front devant ces tombes-là.' "

"I had the inexpressible satisfaction to overhear Mgr. Thomas say aloud to the reverend gentlemen near him: 'I have no reason to doubt but that those brave people were saved. Exalted patriotism like theirs must commend itself to Heaven.' "

Our author also tried his hand at the game of politics, but has no reason to recall his efforts in this direction with pleasure. For five years he represented Lévis at Ottawa, but retired long since despite the protestations of his constituents. A man like our author, whose philosophy teaches him to always champion the right, is sadly handicapped in the arena of Canadian politics to-day.

I must now make my bow, kind reader, and leave you, happy