

humour seem to always play about them. His nose is Roman, the nose of strong characters; his complexion pale, framed with luxuriant hair, formerly black, now silvered. There is poetry in the appearance of the hair and forehead, a brow sculptured by the chisel of a great artist-master, who had need of giving a royal frontispiece to a thought so masterful. In a burst of eloquence, it is useless to try to analyse this countenance. Rays of light pass over it, flashes which quiver and change like the streams of the aurora borealis over the gray firmament.

Whether it is said or not that I touched on the style of a dithyrambic, it matters little to me; I know that I am within the limits of truth. If it were not difficult to believe in the traits of this grand personality, they would not be extraordinary. The foregoing is a photograph; such it will remain in history. Truly, time flies, seeking to keep us unaware of its passage. The Chapleau of 1891 is still so much the Chapleau of 1860 that it seems always to us that this personage without pretension is the young man whom we have all known. We do not think about the past, we have so much to do with the present. But it is when one is obliged, as I am now, to ferret among old happenings, to make a review of thirty years well filled, that one stands confounded before the whole. I, who have passed my life with him, perhaps never discovered all that he is until this very day when I have to write about it. We are under the influence of the charm without taking into account that a charm exists. We abandon ourselves to friendship, to the ordinary intercourse of the world, and we think that it is all; that this friendship, that this confidence, that these needs of mutual encouragement pass quite simply across life as the water which flows in the river. But there comes a moment when realities assert themselves. One of these I now offer to you, one very beautiful, very consoling, and very indisputable.

ARTHUR DANSEREAU.

Montreal, 25th December, 1890.

[Translated by John Francis Waters.]