

He was born at Levis, on the 16th of November, 1839; was educated at the Quebec seminary and Nicolet college, and while pursuing his studies often gave way to the inspirations of the muse, composing songs and poems which he used to publish in the periodicals, and condensed in 1862 in a small volume entitled *Mes Loisirs*. Nearly all the contents of the volume were composed while in college. The little unpretentious work was cordially welcomed in France as well as Canada, the press on either side of the Atlantic commending it for its exhibitions of poetic genius. Victor Hugo, Lamartine, and other French poets of high reputation, commended the work; although the author himself seems not to think much of it.

Mr. Fréchette studied law at Laval university, Quebec, and was called to the bar on the 5th of September, 1864. He left the next year for the United States, and lived for six years in Chicago, becoming naturalized, and being much of the time very actively engaged in politics, editing for three or four years a republican newspaper called *L'Amérique*. During two years of the period spent in Chicago, he acted as corresponding secretary to the Illinois Central railroad company, attending to its foreign correspondence. While a resident of Chicago, Mr. Fréchette published another volume of poems, called *La Voix d'un Exilé*, a political work full of witty and keen satirical thrusts at the Conservatives of Canada, and producing quite a sensation. He also composed a poem of considerable length called *L'Ottawa*, and several theatrical works and novels, which were destroyed in the great fire of 1871.

The same year Mr. Fréchette returned to Canada, and took up his residence at Quebec, to become the Liberal candidate in the county of Levis for the local parliament, against Dr. Blanchet, now Speaker of the House of Commons, and was defeated. He ran again ten months afterwards for the Dominion parliament, and was again defeated, this time by only eleven votes. Nothing daunted, "bating not a jot of heart or hope," in January, 1874, on the downfall of Sir John A. Macdonald's cabinet, Mr. Fréchette contested for the third time his native county, and was successful, serving his constituents for five years. In 1878, he was a candidate for re-election, but in that exciting and memorable canvass, the policy of a protective tariff became a prominent and popular issue, and Mr. Fréchette, who is a free trader or revenue tariff man and many others of the ablest men of his party, were defeated. While in parliament he principally advocated the winter navigation scheme proposed by his friend of Levis, E. W. Sewell, the builder of the *Northern Light*, the gallant little steamer which, during, three severe winters fought her way among the icebergs and hummocks of the Northumberland straits. His speeches on that important question attracted considerable attention, and often raised lively debates on the part of those who considered, as the dream of a utopist, this plan for making of Quebec a winter harbour.

On retiring to private life, Mr. Fréchette turned his attention to literary work, which is the most congenial to his taste, and in 1878 brought out a third volume of poems with the odd title *Pêle Mêle*, which was hailed with great enthusiasm by the press generally, and which met