

THE LATE FRANCOIS MAGLOIRE
DEROME, ESQ.

By the death of M. Derome, which occurred at St. Germain de Rimouski, P. Q., on the 27th of July last, the Province of Quebec loses one of the highest and most able of her public writers. Born in Montreal in 1821, M. Derome was a classmate of ex-Lieutenant-Governor Laflamme, Judge Routhier and other leading public men, at the College of St. Anne, where he carried off the prize for composition in prose and verse. Leaving college he studied for the Bar, we believe with the late Judge Morin, and when barely of age, in 1842, was called to the practice of his profession, before the then Chief-Justice of Lower Canada, the late Sir James Stuart. M. Derome practised as an advocate in Quebec and Montreal, but having previously, while a student, contributed, as an amateur, to the press, he had inherited a taste for newspaper writing which he retained until the last. In 1851 he became editor of *Le Melanges Religieux*, a journal published in Montreal, where he remained until the office of publication was destroyed by fire in the following year, and the paper discontinued. *Le Canadien*, then, as now, one of the leading organs of public opinion published in the French language, spoke of M. Derome, at this time, as "a man of rare information and talent," and that he "wrote French with an intelligence and purity uncommon to this country." In the editorial chair of the paper which pronounced this panegyric M. Derome was destined to win his highest reputation as a public writer—he, in 1854, succeeding the late Mr. Ronald Macdonald as editor, a position he retained up to 1857. The paper, during the existence of the Hincks-Morin administration, was the organ of the Government, and it was conceded on all hands, that never before, whether under Bedard or Parent, had the editorial course of *Le Canadien* been directed by such excellent judgment and sound ability. In 1857, yielding to the solicitations of his friends, M. Derome accepted the office of Prothonotary and Clerk of the Crown and Peace for the District of Rimouski, an office he continued to hold, and the duties of which he zealously and ably discharged up to 1878, when he was removed by the incoming administration, who acting on the prevailing custom in the United States, believed that "to the victors belong the spoils." Thrown on his own resources, M. Derome returned again to the press, and, in the

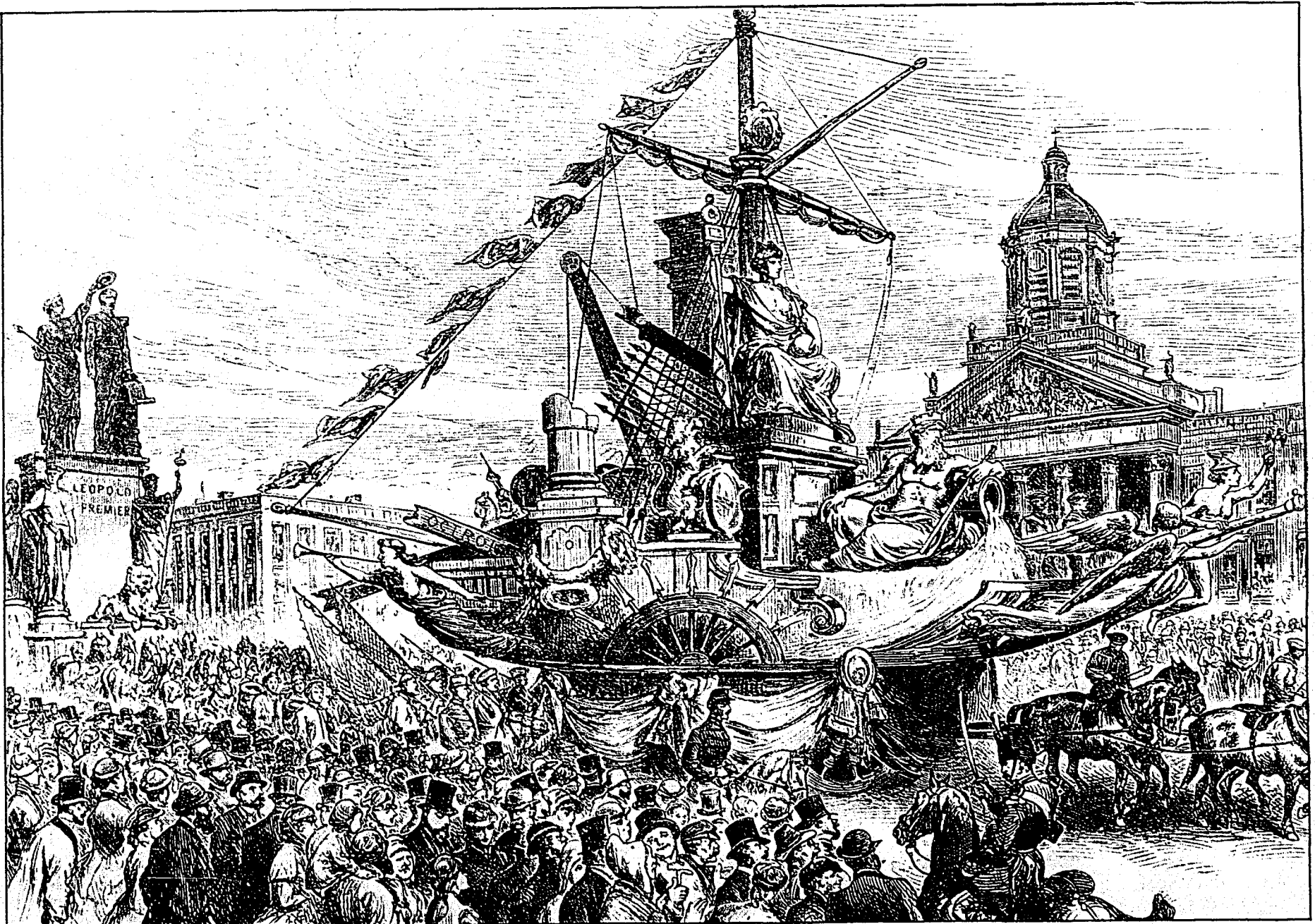
OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY, No. 318.



THE LATE F. M. DEROME.

fall of 1878, was installed as editor of the newly established *Gazette d'Ottawa*, where he remained until the following year, and resigned his position only on account of failing health. We have said that M. Derome was an able writer; he was also an eloquent public speaker. As counsel for the Crown he prosecuted in his district in several important criminal cases, and his ability, learning and eloquence, created a profound impression. On the annual celebration of St. Jean Baptiste M. Derome was invariably the favorite orator of the day, and many will long remember his patriotic utterances on these occasions, and his sage counsels towards securing union and strength among the important race of people, of which he was no unworthy member. M. Derome's name was mentioned more than once in connection with a seat on the judicial bench, and had he been spared he would probably have been selected for some important office, or reinstated in his old position. We believe he had prepared the MS. of one or two volumes for the press containing his impressions of men and things in Canada during his time, which we hope may not be lost to the public. M. Derome was married to a sister of His Lordship Bishop Langevin, of Rimouski, and of Hon. H. L. Langevin, C. B., Minister of Public Works.

THE EVIL EYE.—The Gettatore (literally "thrower") of superstitious Southern Italy is one who throws an evil eye on you. The Italians have a belief that there are people with a *malocchio*, who when they pass and look at you bring you misfortune. The consequence of this superstition is that they wear certain charms with a point—usually of coral—a hand with an stretched-out finger, or a sharp pointed coral piece, which is supposed to catch that evil eye at the moment, and to save the bearer from evil consequences. Stupid as this prejudice appears to be, there are certain people cried down as *gettatori*, and they are avoided as a rule in the most determined fashion. You will rarely see an Italian without such a supposed lightning rod against the *malocchio* on his watch-chain. Offenbach, the composer, for a long time passed in Paris for a *gettatore*, and Florentino, the famous musical critic, a Neapolitan by birth, writing both for the *Constitutionnel* and the *Moniteur* for many years, refused to mention his name on any occasion, from fear that it might bring him some mishap.



PROCESSION OF GUILDS AT THE BELGIAN NATIONAL ANNIVERSARY, BRUSSELS.