

"I know it, but you will not prevent me from limning your general characteristics. With this laudable object in view, you must allow me to coax you to speak a little, whilst I undertake to do the bulk of the talking, with free access to every part of the house from garret to cellar as becometh a veritable curio hunter or Paul Pry."

"But what interest would this have for the outside world?"

"A great deal. You must have read de Goncourt and his *Home of an Artist*. He is his own reviewer. Listen to what he says: 'If the writers of modern times find much to interest them in the lives and actions of the ancients, they cannot be blind to the importance of contemporaneous history.'"

"All right, I am convinced, but unwillingly convinced, mind you!"

"Of course—but now to begin." Our author at once sets to work, and his pen, rapidly running over the paper, covers leaf after leaf. Methodical in all things, his writing materials—pens, ink and paper, are neat, choice, and tasty. The waste of paper does not annoy him half so much as slovenly habits. He is ever orderly in all he does; every document has its special envelope, carefully put away in its allotted place, numbered, and docketed. He thus knows exactly where to put his hand on what he wants, no matter how old it may be.

His scrap books are a precious collection of the anecdotal history of Canada with numberless underlines and annotations. He is always adding to the general store of his information and is never at a loss to supplement his ideas with references and authorities drawn from the thesaurus of his memory or the works that adorn the shelves of his library.

But in his busiest moments, he finds time to entertain those about him. Ever and anon he betrays his pleasure at the happy termination of a phrase or couplet, in sudden exclamations of joy. At such times, it may be, he jumps to his feet, adjusts his glasses and addresses his company, if they happen to be intimate friends, with all the gaiety and playfulness of a boy in his teens.

"Let us take a little rest now, whilst we imbibe some liquid refreshments. Then I'll read what I have just finished. I think you'll find it has the proper ring." Of course the invitation is