

whose favorite amusement was to go from camp to camp insulting the men and challenging them to single combat, a challenge, which on account of his well-known strength and brutality, was usually declined. This man was very anxious to have a duel with pistols at twenty paces with Montferrand. The latter wished to shorten the distance, but Armstrong refused.

"Very well, then," said Montferrand, "since you don't want to fight you shall none the less smell powder," and putting the pistol under his nose he fired it in the air. Then laying his irresistible grasp upon his shoulder he cried: "Now then I'll make you dance."

Completely cowed, the half-breed sank upon his knees and begged to be let off. Montferrand gave him a good shaking and dropped him as limp as a blind puppy — a humbler and much wiser man.

After spending several years with the North-west Company and performing many notable feats, Montferrand took up the hardy and adventurous occupation of lumbering, his chief duty being to bring great rafts of square timber down the Ottawa River to Montreal. This was a very profitable business in those days. The highest wages were paid by the enterprising lumbermen. Men of especial strength, courage and dexterity were eagerly sought after, and it misses of being necessary to say that Joseph Montferrand soon established himself at the top of the tree; so much so that his wages, like Benjamin's portion in the palace of Pharaoh, were double those of any other foreman.

One day when he was carrying a large sum of money to be paid to his men, he was attacked near Lac des Sables by five men who intended to rob him. They soon realized that they had wakened up the wrong passenger, for, throwing himself upon them, he sorely wounded three and made prisoners of the other two, handing them

over to the authorities for punishment.

His name was soon in everybody's mouth. Here is an illustration of the extraordinary effect of his imposing presence. A party of raftsmen, Scotch, Irish and American, who were the guests of a French-Canadian inn at Buckingham, got up a little dance, and the festivity was at its height when the son of the house sought to take part. The others promptly repulsed him, saying that no Canadians were wanted there. The young man retired in high dudgeon, and spread the news of the insult offered him throughout the village. Montferrand happened to be in the neighborhood, and as soon as the matter reached his ears he set out alone for the dance. Bursting unannounced into the room he laid a silencing hand upon the violin and cornet. Then, turning to the company and drawing himself up to his full height, he cried in his most awe-inspiring tones:

"Everybody out of this!"

So immediate and complete was the obedience to this startling and unwelcome command that our admiring analyst, breaking away from the restraints of matter-of-fact prose, expands into poetry after this fashion:

"Vox comprenex le reste;
Sur cet ordre un peu leste
Chacun s'en fut coucher."

Aside from his height (which was six feet three inches and three quarters) and his strength, which was in due proportion, the physical characteristics that made Montferrand so redoubtable an opponent was the unusual length of his arms, (for like Rob Roy he could untie his garters without stooping), the suppleness of his legs, which he could use like flails, and the unsurpassed agility of his whole body. Add to these qualities a sang froid that was rarely shaken, and a courage that knew no flinching, and it is not so difficult to credit his many marvellous feats.