

to hunt up a candidate who, according to tradition, should have a name, a social position, influence, Mr. Chapleau knocks at the door of a labouring man whose merit he had, with one glance, discerned. He does not trouble himself either with astonished public opinion or with hesitation from influential quarters, or even with certain apparently justifiable insubordination; he sees afar off, he knows whither he goes, and he makes a labouring man a member for Montreal.

What he has accomplished since then in this direction all know. Without claiming for him the paternity of the Labour Commission, it can at least be said that he rocked the cradle of it with fatherly solicitude. In fact it was to him that his colleagues entrusted the conduct of the enquiry for the Province of Quebec, and later on it was he whom the Government selected for the co-ordination of the voluminous documents furnished by all parts of the Dominion. In 1889 the Paris Exhibition opened up new avenues for the study of this labour question. The English colonies were not free to take an official part in it; but the Secretary of State took it on himself to counsel one of his old Commissioners to follow the proceedings of the great Labour Congress; then, on Mr. Hellbronner's return, he causes his colleagues to recognize a report on "Social Economy" which will always remain useful and precious to the public men of our country. Besides, Mr. Chapleau has already set himself to modify legislation on the labour question so as to protect the working classes without affrighting or threatening capital. But let us turn aside from this natural digression to resume the work of the biographer.

Madame Chapleau, the mother of the Secretary of State, was a remarkable woman, and we believe that the present case confirms the theory generally received that all brilliant men have resembled their mothers. The talent and admirable management displayed by this excellent woman in bringing up, with the limited means at her disposal, seven children, all of high intelligence, and who all made a course of study in our houses of Superior Education, is something hardly credible.

It was at St. Thérèse, the 9th of November, 1840, the Prince of Wales' birthday, that Joseph Adolphe Chapleau first saw the