

The following is a specimen of *patois*, submitted with the view of emphasizing this fact: The Breton peasant exclaims: *Koi ché donc d'ol bête vient abimi mes lentils?* which, rendered in English, means: "What is this beast which comes to destroy my lentils?" Any one familiar with the French language will see the vast difference between the two cases.

A Parisian would have no more difficulty in understanding a French-Canadian *habitant*, than an educated American the peculiarities of expression of the illiterate of cities or country districts in the United States, who say: "I don't s'pose there ain't nobody seen nothing o' no old felt hat nowhere," or "I feel powerful weak," etc. The Frenchman may, however, be more mystified if he listen to the speech of the working classes of the cities, who use English words pertaining to matters technical and connected with trade. He would find it difficult to know what they meant by *J'ai une job* (*ouvrage*)—"I have a job." *Où est le Boss?* (*maitre*)—"Where is the master?" *Je m'en vais à la shop* (*magasin*)—"I am going to the shop." The exigencies of life in a new world have also, as in the United States, caused the people to coin words which are not found in *Le Dictionnaire de l'Académie Française*. The following are a few samples: *poudrierias*, *balture*, *bordée de neige*, etc.

The peasant speaks without English admixture, but he will say, *Il mouille* ("It wets"), when he should say, *Il pleut* ("It rains"); and he will speak of his *butin* ("plunder"), when he means *effets* ("goods"). These are instances of misuse of words. A few more: if he wish to describe a child who wears out his clothes quickly, he will say, *C'est un vrai petit usurier* ("He is a real little usurer"); and he will also say, *Il me tanne*, instead of *Il m'impatiente* ("He wearies me"). Instances of corruption of words are numerous. One frequently hears, *Ah! que c'est d'valeur*, when a great misfortune is implied, and he should say, *Ah! quel malheur* ("Ah! what a calamity"). Many nautical terms are applied to land matters: *Embarquez à cheval* ("embark on a horse"), instead of *montez à cheval* ("mount a horse"); *Ben grée* ("well rigged") for *Bien fournit* ("well supplied"); *amarrau*, in lieu of *attaches*; *cordeaux*, in place of *guides*, etc.

The professional and educated classes speak good French, but they have not the same aptitude for ornate phraseology, nor can they turn a compliment as neatly, as their compatriots on the other side of the Atlantic. They are not as fluent speakers either. It may be well here to remind some of my readers that most Parisians do not speak pure French, but a corrupt French, bristling with a constantly varying slang (*argot*), which the cultured class, the academicians especially, regret exceedingly. The intonation and accent of the French Canadian are often provincial,