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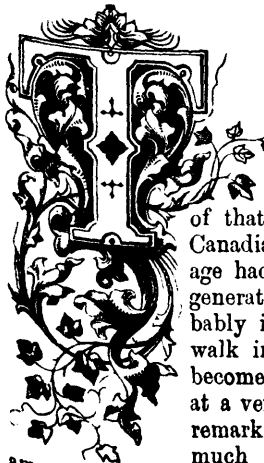
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OUR SELF-MADE MEN.

LOUIS CÔTÉ, ESQ.—A REMARKABLE CANADIAN INVENTOR
AND MANUFACTURER.



HE talented gentleman, whose portrait we give in this number, was born at Saint Dominique—a village in the County of Bagot—in the year 1836. His father was of that humble and upright class of Canadian farmers whose small inheritance had descended to them from one generation to another, and who probably intended that their son should walk in the same sphere of life and become a cultivator of the soil. But at a very early age the boy showed a remarkable taste for mechanics, so much so, that when at school, he amused himself between the leisure hours of study, in drawing designs and figures upon his slate, and devoted his holiday time in constructing miniature mills, and damming up the water courses in ditches to obtain a power to work his crude machinery. The genius so early exhibited for mechanics induced his parents to place him, when fourteen years of age, with an uncle residing at St. Hyacinthe, to learn the shoemaker's trade. Here the boy gave his mind ardently to his trade, and was noted for the superiority of his work over that of other apprentices. The want of education, however, bore heavily on his mind, and even at this early age he severely felt the need of obtaining a higher degree of education than that to be obtained from a country schoolmaster 29 years ago, and that there was an opening for vast improvements in the tools and appliances for manufacturing boots and shoes. At St. Hyacinthe, there is established a College, and is it any wonder that, with a mind thirsting for knowledge, the subject of our biographical sketch should feel envious of the good fortune of the students whom from day to day he saw walking with book in hand around the pleasant wood-

shaded paths of the College grounds, and he yearned for the means, which seemed so far out of his reach, for obtaining better education, the want of which he felt he so much needed. The thoughts that these collegians could have access to a library of rich and interesting information which he seemed debarred from ever reaching, galled the boy's spirit. If he even could have access to a single work on mechanics it would have been to him a treasure. Unfortunately his parents and friends were all poor, and the boy's wages barely sufficed to pay his board and clothe him.

Fortunately this thirst for knowledge was by the kindness of the Principal of the College soon to be assuaged, for observing the mechanical talent of the youth, and appreciating his self-denial and the sacrifices he was making to improve his mind, he, one day, to the boy's great delight, sent to him a notification that he could enter as a student in the Normal School of the College.

Here was an unexpected happiness. He was 19 years of age, fast growing into manhood, and now at the last moment he happily found the door open to him for advancement. He was now in a position to study without the necessity of resorting to his trade to pay for his board. The avidity with which he applied himself to his studies, and the rapid progress that he made in the exact sciences astonished his teachers. In this school he remained until he had passed through the whole of the regular courses.

On leaving this institution the first question he had to consider was what should be his future pursuit in life.

Many young men in his position, particularly after receiving an education qualifying them for a higher sphere, would have felt it hurtful to their feelings to resume the humble mechanical trade of a shoemaker as carried on in those days. But Louis Côté had no such false pride. In his school days a certain idea had become fixed in his mind—a sort of dream of life—that he would become the head of a large industrial establishment, and bring into play those brain thoughts that as yet were but ideal imaginations, but for which he was prepared to make any sacrifice to put into some tangible form.

To attain this end he did not fail to take advantage of