

printed; and I was about to give rein to my curiosity, when the young lawyer rose from his seat, took up his hat, and, with his *serviette** under his arm, was passing me on his way to the Court House, when Lanctôt said:

"Let me introduce M. Laurier, my partner in this struggling firm of lawyers. A future Minister!"

Laurier smiled, and, being pressed for time, exchanged only a few polite phrases with me. As the door closed behind him, Lanctôt exclaimed:

"There is a head for you! Did you notice it? The young man who has it on his shoulders is sure to make himself heard of yet in the world. Why, sir, he is a poet, an orator, a philosopher, a jurist,—I cannot pretend to enumerate all his talents; but, mark my words, he is a coming man. Don't forget that face!"

The recommendation was needless. Laurier's physiognomy is one of those which strike the beholder at the first glance. Once seen, it photographs itself upon the memory, never to be forgotten.

It was some years before I again met the man who was to occupy the neighbouring seat to mine in the Dominion Parliament, and with whom circumstances were to unite me, later on, in the bonds of a friendship which I count as so great an honour.

When I next heard of him I was living in Chicago. He was publishing over his own signature, in some periodical of the day, the name of which I cannot now remember, a narrative,—half tale, half legend,—written in clear and vigorous style, and containing a mingling of interesting historical details, with sketches of men and manners, which disclosed a most original faculty of observation, together with a rare mastery of our language. I have never seen the conclusion of this work. Its publication was interrupted by a critical event in Laurier's life.

It was in 1867. The death of Eric Dorion had just occurred, and the *Défenseur*, that popular journal which had so valiantly fought the battles and won the victories of the Liberal party in the Eastern Townships, was on the point of ending its career with

**Serviette*: The portfolio carried by advocates, in the Province of Quebec, in place of the "blue bag" used by the Ontario barrister.—TRANSLATOR.