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From his boyhood C. W. Jefferys had read widely in the popular historical fiction of his time. He had also found special pleasure in those writers who were ironical commentators upon the human scene, and in those other craftsmen in letters who specialized in the macabre and the grotesque. In many of his greatest paintings and drawings there can be found tucked carefully away some little touch of humour, some sly ironical note, each a carefully considered comment upon mankind and its eccentricities. Jefferys' "Rebels of 1837 Drilling in North York" is a good example of this, for by an expression here, an incongruity there, even though every detail is perfect, from lanthorn to beaver hat, the irony mixed with pathos is inescapable. Jefferys has done many drawings that belong to the history of humour in Canada: Pepys in church, bored with the dull sermon and the absence of pretty women; Christopher Marlowe grinding out a purple line; Thoreau at Walden and the too-simple life. These are studies in irony conceived as such, deliberate portrayals that reveal the probing, eager, kindly philosopher that he is.

Jefferys' fantastic pieces are equally a part of his deliberate intent, and must be placed over against his irony and his tireless pursuit of the minutiae of historical evidence. While he has exhibited little, and published less, of his grotesqueries, his essays in the macabre, in the bizarre and the fantastic, they must nevertheless be studied alongside of the rest of his work if one wishes to discover a clue to the quality and variety of the man and artist.

Taking up the three volumes of *The Picture Gallery of Canadian History*, and running through the 620 pages of illustrations [with a total of approximately 2000 separate drawings], one finds that the word which comes most frequently to mind is *heroic*. This applies not merely to battles and sieges, and many of Dr. Jefferys' greatest illustrations are concerned with these, but to the heroic and the courageous in times of peace. The frontiersman and settler, explorer and pioneer, farmer and trapper, woodsman and roadbuilder, surveyor and homemaker—what a company they are! They are all cast in a heroic mould. There is nothing petty about any of them. We have no contemporary portrait of Champlain, but he must have looked like Jefferys'