

observer, there is no intimacy, no openness of heart; affection but little love. A son writes to his parent, "I am about to be married," or "I am married." The parents answer, "We are glad to hear it; we shall be happy to make the acquaintance of your wife." It is a remarkable fact, that among these curious islanders, the mother-in-law has no influence, and never thinks of interfering. When a son stays as a guest in his father's house, he finds on the breakfast table, at the end of his visit, a little paper carefully folded, which is his bill; before he parts with his coin, he satisfies himself that the items are accurate, and objects if he finds that his father has charged him for eggs and bacon, when he only eat the bacon and not the eggs. All ladies of fashion at one time limped, in imitation of the Princess of Wales, who had been made lame by rheumatism. The only substantial trades in London are those of beer and old clothes. Winter lasts eight months. Of course every Englishman dines daily on a pound of beef and a pound of plum-pudding. It is a literal fact, that Mr. Taine, the author of the well-known works on England and English literature, was found lunching at an hotel on beefsteak and *buttered toast*, which he confidently assured his surprised visitor was the national fare. He had asked for beefsteak and *potatoes* with such an accent that the waiter always brought him, instead of potatoes, *buttered toast*. We find proof every day in the French press that French knowledge of British character and habits has scarcely advanced since the time of Voltaire. The Englishman in *Zadig* is almost as near the life as the present writer's "John Bull."

AS MR. MATTHEW ARNOLD is expected to lecture here in February, it is rather unlucky that such an effusion of spite as the following should have found its way from the American into the Canadian press:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 23.—An admirable illustration of the supreme assurance of the Englishman in America, even though he is a litterateur and thoroughly permeated with sweetness and light, is the manner in which Matthew Arnold has planted himself and family upon the Leiters. Some time ago Mrs. Leiter invited Arnold to spend some little time in Washington during the social season to see something of the fashionable life of the Capital. Social life in Washington is extremely stupid and unentertaining before the holidays. The season does not begin until New Year's. The lecturing business is also extremely dull at this time of the year. It is cheaper to visit than pay hotel bills, and Arnold has taken advantage of an invitation which was given for a later day to take up his residence in the Leiter mansion with his wife, daughter, nurse, and a small yellow dog. Mrs. Leiter is said to be decidedly mad about it, but she cannot do anything except entertain them to the best of her ability and much to her inconvenience, as the inopportune visit has disarranged all her plans. Last evening Mrs. Leiter gave a reception for the Arnolds, but the thrifty Englishman for whom the reception was chiefly given, and who was the only one of the family whom anyone cared to see, had received an invitation to lecture and flatly insulted his entertainers by accepting it, thereby accumulating the usual fee.

In this, as in most libellous or malicious paragraphs, every sensible reader will find the antidote beside the bane. Who does not see that a writer so malignant and so unscrupulous with regard to social decency, would be equally unscrupulous with regard to truth? One item in the paragraph is certainly false: Mr. Arnold has no children with him and therefore he can have no nurse. The daughter who is with him is grown-up. The insinuation that he has quartered himself in a house in which he is not welcome for the sake of "cheapness," is on a par with the statement so confidently put forth by certain journals, that Lord Coleridge's reason for not coming to Canada was the refusal of the Grand Trunk Railway to grant him a pass. Besides, who can believe that a lady who lives in a "mansion" would unbosom herself about her guests to a gentlemen of the social press?

Through the criticisms which have appeared on Mr. Arnold as a lecturer, there has run a perpetual forgetfulness of the distinction between the literary and the platform lecturer. As a literary lecturer Mr. Arnold is excellent: he gives his audience thought and instruction of the highest kind. As a platform lecturer nobody can be successful who has not specially devoted himself to a calling which is a profession in itself, and is far nearer of kin to that of the actor on the stage than to that of the teacher in the University chair. The platform lecturer in the United States has a repertory of lectures composed for popular effect, which he learns by heart, and delivers, like an actor, with studied accents and premeditated gesticulations. Everett, who was the prince of the tribe, gesticulated not only with his arms but with his legs, and he was said sometimes to arrange beforehand for the accidental occurrence in the course of his performances of incidents which might give an opening for a well-prepared burst of extempore eloquence. An English man of letters when invited to lecture in the States or in any country where the American fashion prevails, should inquire whether a literary or a platform lecture is desired; if a platform lecture is desired, wisdom will bid him to decline the invitation. This is a trap into which more than one English lecturer has fallen.

A BYSTANDER.

ACCORDING to *Bradstreet's*, Canada had twenty-four failures last week as against seventeen for the corresponding week of 1882, and twelve for the corresponding week of 1881.

A SIDE-LIGHT ON ACADIAN HISTORY.

THREE years ago Mr. Dennis, a Halifax journalist, when visiting Cape Breton, learned that a Miemac squaw in his neighbourhood possessed a manuscript written in French and wearing the wrinkles of a venerable old age. This musty document his persuasive zeal secured for the Provincial library at Halifax. The owner, who at first thought herself amply remunerated by the prospect of her heirloom being numbered among the Provincial archives, repented of her generosity when an American visited her soon afterwards and talked grandly, but inexpensively, of the dollars he would have paid her for the document she had given away. She then followed the manuscript all the way to Halifax, but, arrived there, she finally agreed (at the special request of Archbishop Hannan, I am told) to surrender her proprietary rights for a trifling sum.

The manuscript in question consists of two sheets of paper, pasted together on linen. On one sheet is a commission from Desherbiers, Governor of Cape Breton, then called Isle Royale, as follows:—

"Charles Desherbiers, chevalier de l'ordre royal et militaire de St. Louis, Capitaine des vaisseaux du Roy, Commandant de l'isle royale et de ses dependances.

"Etant necessaire de pourvoir les sauvages de l'isle royale d'un major sous un capitaine qui ait de l'experience dans la guerre et qui soit tout a fait attaché au service de Sa Majesté, nous avons (*cru*) ne pouvoir faire un meilleur choix que la personne de Janot Sequidoulouet pour les commander. C'est pourquoi nous l'avons commis et établi pour commander les sauvages sous les ordres des chefs de guerre. Enjoignons aux dits sauvages de le reconnaître et de lui obéir en tout ce qu'il commandera pour le bien du service.

"En foy de quoy nous avons signé * * * et fait apposer le cachet de nos armes.
"Donné à Louisbourg, 8 Novembre, 1750.

"[L.S.] DESHERBIERS."

(Translation.)

Charles Desherbiers, Chevalier of the Royal and Military Order of St. Louis, Captain of the King's vessels, Commandant of Isle Royale and its dependencies.

It being necessary to provide the Indians of Isle Royale (Cape Breton) with a major under a commander who may have experience in war, and who may be entirely devoted to the service of His Majesty, we have thought we could not make a better selection than Janot Sequidoulouet to command them. Wherefore we have commissioned and appointed him to command the Indians under the orders of the military leaders. We enjoin upon the said Indians to recognize him and to obey him in every order that he shall give them for the good of the service.

In attestation of which we have signed * * * and caused the seal of our arms to be affixed (thereto).

Given at Louisbourg, the 8th day of November, 1750.

[L.S.] DESHERBIERS.

The other sheet of manuscript is a renewal of the same commission by Count de Raymond, successor to Desherbiers, and reads thus:—

"Jean Louis, Comte de Raymond, Chevalier Seigneur d'Oyé, la Cour, et autres lieux, Maréchal des camps et armées du Roy, lieutenant pour Sa Majesté des villes et chateau d'Angoulême, Gouverneur et Commandant des Isles Royale, Saint Jean, et autres;

"Sur les bons témoignages qui nous ont été rendus de la fidélité et attachement aux Français du nommé Janot Sequidoulouet et de son zèle et affection à la religion et au service du Roy, l'avons nommé et établi et par ces présentes nommons et établissons Chef des Sauvages de l'Isle Royale.

"En foy de quoy nous avons signé ces presentes et y avons fait apposer le cachet de nos armes et contresigner par l'un de nos secretares.

"Fait à Louisbourg le dix Septembre mil sept cent cinquante (et) un.

"le cte de Raymond

"Par Monsieur le Comte

[L.S.] "PICHON."

(Translation.)

(We.) John Louis, Count de Raymond, etc., etc., Governor and Commandant of Cape Breton, Saint John (P.E.I.), and other islands.

In consequence of the favourable testimony given us of the fidelity and devotion to the French of the aforesaid Janot Sequidoulouet, and of his zeal and affection for the religion and for the service of the King, have nominated and confirmed him, and by these presents nominate and confirm him as Chief of the Indians of Cape Breton.

In attestation of which we have signed these presents and caused the signet of our arms to be affixed to them, and the same to be countersigned by one of our secretaries.

Done at Louisbourg, September 10th, 1751.

le cte de Raymond,

By the Count

[L.S.] PICHON.

Both papers are duly sealed and written in the official jargon of the time, and calculated to impress the Indians, and perhaps, as we shall see, the Acadian French also. Many of the letters are blurred by age, while the word that I have replaced by "*cru*" and a few others in the formal close of the former document are wholly obliterated.

It will be noticed that these commissions were issued when England and France were at peace. Desherbiers' commission, which speaks of the necessity of appointing a commander "who may have experience in war, and be entirely devoted to the service of His Majesty," and which actually appoints the bearer "to command the savages under the orders of the military leaders," was signed two years after the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle and one year after the founding of Halifax.

De Raymond's secretary, Thomas Pichon, who countersigned the second manuscript, and seemingly wrote it all except the peculiar signature of his chief, published afterwards a very readable and now rare book, entitled "Lettres et Memoires pour servir à l'Histoire Naturelle, Civile, et Politique du Cap Breton," and printed at La Haye in 1760. The tenth Letter reports an adroit speech made by Count de Raymond during his governor-