

his first brotherly reception in old France, and he was perhaps the only Canadian who had then received such a public tribute. What he said there I no longer know, but what I do know is that, when he took his seat, all these hard-headed men of business, these cold plutocrats, these millionaires, were profoundly moved, and declared that since they had heard the great French orators, from Lacordaire to Gambetta, they for the first time were equally impressed by the oratory of another.

Human eloquence will probably never surpass Mr. Chapleau's speech at the fête St. Jean Baptiste of 1884, and all contemporary narrators recollect the thrill which went through the audience, when, with inspired eye and brow enwrapped with a veritable halo, his voice quivering with emotion, Mr. Chapleau pronounced that memorable discourse. He has had so many oratorical triumphs that it is difficult to discriminate as to their value. From him the public has heard masterpieces extemporised in a couple of minutes, as well as models of academic eloquence, which, literally and without figure, enraptured his hearers. The extraordinary success of his speech at Toronto, at the banquet tendered to Sir John Macdonald in December, 1884, has become a tradition in Ontario. As a model of parliamentary eloquence, I know nothing more striking than the peroration of his great speech on the sale of the Q.M.O. & O. Railway in 1882, in the Legislative Assembly of Quebec. Who could have thought that, after an elaborate effort of fourteen or fifteen hours, he could have kept vigour enough to draw a word picture so perfectly designed as that which, on the spur of the moment, he made of political adventurers.

Mr. Chapleau is of French-Canadian birth. His father, the late M. Pierre Chapleau, was one of the most admirable types of our race. Six feet tall, well made, of a commanding presence, he inspired respect as much by his uprightness of character, his exceeding sense of honour, his scrupulous integrity, as by his noble aspect. Without education, a masonry contractor by trade, he would have been quite at home in a gathering of men distinguished either in Society or Letters. Needless to say how strong was the affection of such a child for such a father. In a model of eloquence, of that eloquence of the heart felt alike by hearer and reader, the