

The number of minor poets, whose works are more or less ephemeral and cast in varying degrees of excellence, is very large, and the bare enumeration would fill a lengthy paragraph. M. Sulte has counted no less than 175 names. These writings were originally consigned to the columns of newspapers or the pages of magazines, and have never been collected except on one or two occasions. Among the writers of this class I may cite Eustache Prudhomme, formerly a notary of Montreal, who published many elegant pieces some twenty years ago, but has since gone out of sight. Judge Routhier, one of the best prose writers in this province, has also published a number of poems, the *Ode on Canada* in the nineteenth century being specially worthy of note. J. Lenoir, of Montreal, was cut off in his prime, just as his talent was maturing. His apostrophe to the Church of Notre Dame of Montreal is set in broad lines. Then we have Fiset, of Quebec; Poisson, of Arthabaska; Alfred Garneau, of Ottawa, son of the poet and historian; Achille Fréchette, of Ottawa; and Evanturel, of Quebec.

The time and space at my command do not allow of any further extension of this study. My paper has been essentially revisional and not critical, and hence I have been spared the labor of finding fault. But even if I had gone into analysis, I should still hold that the names which I have cited are those of genuine poets, who have published works of real merit, many of them destined to live as long as the French language survives in America, and as long as the French Canadians preserve their patriotism and their intellectual autonomy. All the elements have been touched upon in their poetry—their history, enlivened by romance and consecrated by affliction; their nationality, maintained in spite of all the disintegrating influences of conquest; their religion, homely and primitive as in the Brittany and Normandy of the Middle Ages; their social life, adorned by courtesy, inspirited by cheerfulness, and stamped with a simple, old-fashioned sense of honor.

JOHN LESPERANCE, F.R.S.C.