

LÉTICHE was a mysterious little animal supposed to be the ghost of an unbaptised infant.

287. These superstitions were all of mediæval and Norman origin, and were brought over by the first colonists to their new home.

303. Port Royal had belonged to England since 1713. The Acadians themselves mention the notary's captivity by the French as after 1749 (see note on ll. 275-6). Hence the poet may have made a slip in the name of the fort.

306-25. A mediæval Florentine story.

327. FAİN : — Gladly, willingly. From Anglo-Saxon *fægen*, glad.

328-9. An admirable simile. Cf. Tennyson's *Princess*, ii. 305-7 :—

"And all her thoughts as fair within her eyes,
As bottom agates seen to wave and float
In crystal currents of clear morning seas."

335. See note on ll. 260-2.

352. This metaphor is considered distinctly bad.

354. CURFEW is a corruption of the French *couvre-feu*, cover fire. It originated in the Middle Ages. The Curfew-bell was tolled at hours varying, according to the custom of the place, from seven to nine o'clock in the evening. It bade all honest folk lock their doors, put out their lights, and go to bed. "The primary purpose of the Curfew appears to have been the prevention of conflagrations arising from domestic fires left unextinguished at night."

371. TIDES : — The simile is obvious.

381. See Genesis xvi. and xxi.

IV.

385-6. A famous and beautiful metaphor.

387-8. Colonel Winslow had summoned "both old men and young men, as well as all the lads of ten years of age," to attend in the Grand Pré church at three o'clock on the afternoon of this day.

396-8. This description of the Acadians was drawn from the Abbé Guillaume François Raynal, a French writer (see Introduction). His too highly coloured picture of Acadian life has been the authority for more than one succeeding author.

408. GAYEST . . . WAISTCOATS : — A figure of speech called "Zeugma," where by the omission of one word another is joined to words with which it has properly no connection. For other examples, see ll. 56 and 983.

413. Two popular old French songs. "Tous les Bourgeois de Chartres was written by Ducauroi, Maître de Chapelle to Henri IV. . . . Le Carillon de Dunkerque was a popular song to a tune played on the Dunkirk chimes." (Evangeline, ed. H. E. Scudder.) Longfellow had seen these airs in a French-Canadian publication in 1846.

415. Onomatopœia of a somewhat subtle character. The object is to give a more vivid picture of the dance by the involved lettering of the words. Cf. Tennyson, *The Princess*, Prologue, l. 20 :—

"Laborious orient ivory sphere in sphere."