

may be deceived at next elections ; but the day of retribution will only be the fairer and the more glorious."

This long quotation gives a sufficient idea of the oratorical style of Mr. Taillon. I shall take permission however to draw the attention of the reader to another speech of Mr. Taillon. It is that which he delivered in the Quebec Legislature, on the 25th of May, 1888, during the debate upon the resolutions of the Interprovincial Conference. It is a model of forcible dialectic, and at the same time a learned discussion of the position of the provinces of the Dominion under the British North America Act (1867).

Another thing to remark when I speak of Mr. Taillon's oratorical talent, is the rapidity of the thrust, the vigorous and incisive repartee, the witticism, which suffice sometimes to confound an opponent and gain the favour of the audience. How often, in the Quebec House, has he brought the laughers to his side, at the expense of a formidable adversary, by a word thrown into an acrimonious discussion. It would be desirable to preserve some of his repartees, if only to show that the old Gallic blood does not belie itself on the banks of the St. Lawrence. I shall only quote the latest ; perhaps it is not the latest, for the scene, which I shall reproduce from *La Minerve* of November 29th, 1893, took place two months ago.

The question of the taxes was under discussion in the Legislature. The subject was dry, since heaps and heaps of figures were piled up, and orators delivered perorations from behind literal ramparts of blue books. At length the member for L'Islet, Mr. Dechêne, rose to speak. I shall reproduce, without further commentary, the newspaper report.

" Mr. Dechêne, continuing the debate, said, 'The honourable Prime Minister, unable to successfully defend his policy, is waiting for light from above, from below, from the left, from the right.'

" Mr. Taillon. — 'Yes, but not from in front of me.' (Laughter and applause).

" Mr. Dechêne, very much put out, lost himself in his speech and muttered inconsequential phrases, until six o'clock, when the House rose."