

adventures. Only a few miles from the commercial capital of Canada, the substantial, picturesque city of Montreal, we come to a beautiful expanse of water, called Lachine; for here it was La Sale dreamed that he was to find in the great West a short road to the riches of the East.

Indeed, wherever we go on the American Continent we find the impress of the fame of those *coureurs de bois* and gentleman-adventurers who were the first to push their way into the great unknown West, and give a name to many a lake and river, on whose banks and shores have grown up communities enjoying an amount of prosperity which could never have presented itself even to their most sanguine imagination.

In the days of the French régime there was necessarily no native literature, and little general culture except in small select circles at Quebec and Montreal. But during the past half century, with the increase of wealth, the dissemination of liberal education, and the development of self-government, the French Canadians have created for themselves a literature which shows that they inherit much of the spirituality and brilliancy of their race. Their histories and poems have attracted much attention in literary circles in France, and one poet, M. Louis Frechette, has quite recently won the highest prize of the French Institute for the best poem of the year. In history we have the names of Garneau, Ferland, Sulte, Tassé, Casgrain, Tanguay, Verreau; in poetry, Frechette, Sulte, Le May; in science, Hamel, Laflamme, Baillargé, besides many others famed as *savants* and *littérateurs*. Science has not made so much progress as *Belles Lettres*, though Laval University—the principal educational institution of the highest class—has among its professors men who have done much creditable work in mathematics, geology and physics. In Romance, however, very little has been done, although the history of old Canada offers a fruitful field, while the customs and peculiarities of the French Canadian might afford much material to the realistic novelist.

The French Canadians have a natural love for poetry and music. Indeed it is a French Canadian by birth and early education—Madame Albani—who has of late years won a high distinction on the operatic stage. No writer of this nationality,