

of verse is complete, his language virile, his imaginative powers of a very high order and his love of country and sympathy for the scenes he describes complete, so that it is a matter of course that he should stand at the head of the French-Canadian poets.

In fiction the French writers are not strong. The first volume of poetry made its appearance about 1830, but it was not until 1856 that there appeared a volume by a very old man which has often been dignified by the name of *novel*, but is in reality a set of memoirs. Philippe A. de Gaspé was born in 1786, and was consequently about seventy years of age when he made his *début* as an author in *Les anciens Canadiens*. The work gives an excellent idea of the manners, amusements and occupations of the colonists before the conquest, and is a valuable addition to our *Kulturgeschichte*. It has been translated several times, among others by Prof. C. G. D. Roberts. In 1866 the author followed up the first work by the *Mémoires*. Another writer of simple, unaffected prose is Gérin Lajoie (1825-1882), principally known as the author of *Jean Rivard*. The first part of this work deals with the trials and hardships of an early settler, the second part describes the homely pleasures of the farmer, who, having cleared his farm, is able to enter into the enjoyment of the fruits of his labors. Another story of great merit as a description of manners and *habitant* life, is the work of the late Sheriff Chauveau, called *Charles Guérin* (1853). But like almost all the fiction of the earlier Canadian writers, whether French or English, it is very deficient in character drawing, and the language is affected though brilliant. More in the natural, unaffected style of Lajoie is the story of *Jacques et Marie* by Nap. Bourassa. Both of these writers are in love with the world of nature and this love is reflected in their works. Bourassa's work is a story of the exiled Acadians, a prose *Evangeline*. Two other authors who have their admirers are Joseph Marmette, author of *Francois de Bienville* (1870), a story of 1690, and of *L'Intendant Bigot*; and Jean Charles Taché, whose *Forestiers et Voyageurs* is a fine description of the habits and life of two very interesting classes of people.

From what has already been said in the preceding paragraph it will be seen that the fiction of the French Canadians has not as yet developed like that of some of our later English-Canadian authors, but they have been bolder in another form of literature, viz., the drama, though the results have been rather meagre. Mons. F. G. Marchand, at present Premier of Quebec, has written several bright comedies which have been acted. LeMay has also essayed his hand, and Frechette's *Papineau* was quite popular, apotheosizing as it does the popular hero of 1837.