



Douglas Paterson, a Canadian drama producer, in the role of the *Black Robe*

his success is almost wizzardly can be proved by those who saw him in the "Bonnie Briar Bush" and who might easily have been deceived like the pompous gentleman heard announcing in the lobby:

"I don't know that the old chap's work deserves much praise, for he had nothing to do but be himself! Of course, you know they chose a very *old man* for that part!"

But of so-called legitimate work, including the management of Miss Elsie Ferguson and Miss Ethel Barrymore (a paradoxical statement that each might deny!)—there is nothing, I think, so interesting, as Douglas Paterson's summer performance, when for several years past he has traversed the United States in a romantic, if not luxurious, atmosphere. He formed an important though obscure part of a company composed of braves, squaws, papooses, dogs, wigwams, and canoes which made up Mr. F. E. Moore's "Hiawatha" players.

These players presented the legends, myths and customs of the North American Indian in a concrete, dramatic form. Hiawatha, as given by them was an authentic reproduction of Indian Folk Lore. The characters and lines were Longefellow's, and each member of the company was a full-blooded Indian to whom the performance was almost as solemn as was the Passion Play to the simple peasant of Oberammergau. They spoke or sang their parts in their native tongue, the rest of the poem being declaimed or chanted, off-stage, by Mr. Paterson, who appeared on the programme as the *Black Robe*.

It goes without saying that Hiawatha was produced out of doors, the actors camping true Indian-fashion at some little distance from the scene of the play, and it is our loss in Canada that we did not bring this Masque to our cities, so many of which offered unusually beautiful settings for its enactment.