

Dr. Drummond has availed himself of familiar acquaintance with the mixed tongue to appeal to the love of dialect story which has recently—perhaps always—been so strong. But he has done much more than to master and reproduce the habitant's forms of expression. This alone would not have held for over an hour and a half the unbroken interest of an audience. He has studied sympathetically—or perhaps his sympathy has led him without conscious study to understand the French Canadian countryman. He shows him to us from different points of view and in various relations. As we sum up our impressions gained through the Doctor's eyes, we have to say of his habitant, first that he is a simple-minded man. Openness and frankness everywhere characterize him. When he intends to be sly, he takes you fully into his confidence, rather expecting you to admire his diplomacy.

The Doctor's hero is a lover of nature. He quaintly expresses this in "De Habitant," "Le Vieux Temps" and other pieces. His love of home and native land is very evident. He is an amorous man, and, in his mellow years, retains some sympathy with the girl who sees the moon which "isn't dat side de house."

His light heartedness leads him, in youth, to many a scene of jollity, which in later years, he recalls with easy complacency. His friendship is strong, his religious feeling is deep and not lessened by the superstition which is never absent; his patriotism is beyond question.

Dr. Drummond's rendering of his poetry gave much pleasure. He has a good voice and presence, a genial face and manner, and no little dramatic power. The raconteur whom he personifies is always the rather nonchalant habitant, who conceals his emotions, especially dissembling his satisfaction when he relates what he evidently considers a very funny incident or an excellent joke. This is without doubt a correct representation of one type: might he not perhaps read some of his poems in the person of a younger Frenchman, with less of apparent phlegm—more of vivacity and action?

We have to thank the Doctor for seizing, in his poetic and appreciative instinct, upon the salient points in the character of our compatriot of French origin, and presenting him to us in a light at once interesting and amiable.

The Canadian "Country Doctor."

I s'pose mos' ev'ry boddy t'ink hees own job's 'bout de hardes'
 From de boss men on de Gouvernement to poor men on de town
 From de Curé to de lawyer, an' de school-boy to de farmer
 An' all de noder feller wat mak' de worl' go roun'.
 But dere's wan man got hees han' full t'roo ev'ry kin' of wedder,
 An' he's never sure of not'ing but work an' work away,