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Emile - Coulon, Emile

POETICAL LEISURE HOURS

AND

TORONTONIAN DESCRIPTIONS,

IN FRENCH VERSE AND ENGLISH ESSAYS,

FOLLOWED BY A TOKEN OF AFFECTION TO A DEPARTED AND FOND SISTER,

AND A CURRICULUM VITAE.

BY

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1897.

TORONTO:
ROWSELL & HUTCHISON, PRINTERS.

1897.

Entered according to Act of Parliament in the Department of
Agriculture, Ottawa, in the year one thousand eight hundred
and ninety-seven, by EMILE COULON.

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TO

THE HONOURABLE S. H. BLAKE, Q. C.,

EX-VICE-CHANCELLOR,

A GENEROUS PATRON AND FRIEND OF

FINE ARTS AND POLITE LITERATURE,

THESE HUMBLE ESSAYS AND COMPOSITIONS ARE HUMBLY INSCRIBED,

AS A TRIBUTE OF GRATITUDE AND RESPECT,

BY HIS FORMER TEACHER,

EMILE COULON, G.M.

TORONTO, May, 1897.

P R E F A C E .

These small contributions of my Toronto leisure hours derive their only merit, *if there be any, because tutored into me* ; from the deep set affection I always entertained for the people of this city, who had made me one of theirs, through their kindness to and interest for me.

I must therefore be excused, having returned to Toronto, if I thus recall my name and former labours to the minds of those who had been my pupils, or had befriended me.

TORONTO, June, 1897.

TORONTO LEISURE HOURS.

Alack ! what poverty my Muse brings forth,
That, having such a scope to show her pride,
The argument, all bare, is of more worth
Than when it hath my added praise beside !

—SHAKESPEARE, *Sonnet*, CIII.

To Miss Helen Gzowski, after Luncheon, Impromptu.

Quelle que soit toute beauté,
Elle vient après la bonté.
Admirons donc de la femme
Et son esprit et la flamme
Qui, sortant de ses yeux,
Nous transportent aux cieux.
Nos succès viennent d'elle ;
Les amours sous son aile
Font espérer ces beaux jours,
Qui devraient durer toujours.

To Mrs. Frank Moss, on Returning a Book.

Vous m'avez prêté ce bon La Fontaine
Que les étudiants ont pris en sottie haine.
Je vous le rends ; je m'en suis servi :
Mes compliments, bien à vous, merci.

To Mrs. Frank Moss.

*Aux bons parents
Les bons enfants !*

La fille, ce dit-on, ressemble au père
Surtout et surtout par le caractère.
Comme sa soeur, le fils de son côté
De sa mère aura même qualité.
Ainsi se transmettent les perfections ;
Des bons parents, les plus nobles actions.
Les enfants auront en partage
Chose que dit si bien l'adage :
Dans son fils le père se trouvera ;
Dans sa fille la mère revivra.

**To the Honourable Mrs. S. H. B., previous
to her Departure for Murray-Bay.**

Vous nous quittez, Madame,
Et transportez votre âme,
Vers ces lointains beaux lieux,
Favorisés des cieux,
Vieille terre française
Où l'on est à son aise :
A Murray-Bay,
Endroit si frais.

Votre belle demeure sur Jarvis,
Au numéro deux cent cinquante six,
Se verra par votre absence,
Réduite au plus grand silence.
Mais vous lui redonnerez,
Puisque vous y reviendrez,
Cette grâce enchanteresse
D'une parfaite maîtresse
De maison,
De salon.

Introduction to one of my Lectures.

Puisqu'il m'est ici permis
 Grâce à tous mes amis,
 De produire devant vous
 Ce récit noble entre tous,
 Vous aurez douce souvenance
 Du plus beau langage de France.

About François 1^{er}s Stanza.

*Souvent femme varie,
 Bien fol est qui s'y fie ;
 A dit François premier,
 Non certes, le dernier.*

L'homme est plus variable
 Dans ses amours
 De quelques jours,
 Que l'onde moins stable.
 Aussi puis-je ajouter,
 Sans vouloir me flatter,
 Que mes bouts-rimés, que ma stance,
 Vaut bien celle du roi de France.

To Miss Helen Gzowski.

Ne vient-on pas me dire
 Que vous aimez à rire
 Avecque des gens sérieux ;
 Ils en rendent grâce aux cieux.

Ils admirent votre franchise,
 Et, permettez que je le dise,
 Votre belle humeur,
 Toute à votre honneur.

Answer to a Request of the same.

Veut-on faire le portrait
 De toute jeune personne
 Qui raisonne ?
 Quelque soin que l'on prenne,
 La plume vous entraîne
 Plus loin qu'on ne voudrait.
 Sur sa présence
 Il se faut résigner,
 De préférence,
 A la complimenter.
 Leçons entre toutes,
 Sur mon sentiment
 Qui ne laisse doutes,
 Un unique instant.

Portraiting to the same.

Veuille ma muse m'inspirer
 Et me prêter à mieux rimer.
 Ce n'est pas que ma pensée
 Soit à court d'aucune idée.
 Ce serait un grand honneur,
 D'avoir assez de bonheur,
 Inspiré par votre présence,
 Que je puisse en toute conscience,
 Dépeindre votre portrait
 Rempli de charme et d'attrait.

School Education.

Si l'on blâme l'instruction d'une fille
 Qui ne se fait pas toujours en famille,
 C'est parce qu'en la mettant en pension,
 On lui enlève toute distraction.

**To the Honourable S. H. B., about the Famous
Picture of Munkacsi's Painting.**

J
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f
s

Jésus devant Pilate !
Voyez avec quelle hâte,
Israël va tout entier,
Faire revivre le ciel,
Se perdre, se profaner.

Telle apparut l'innocence
Devant une folle engeance
De Juifs assemblés,
A jamais damnés.

To a Little Waif.

Chère enfant à ton âge,
On est belle, on est sage ;
Puissest-tu très longtemps garder
Ton printemps qui va commencer !

Que plus tard sans cesse on te répète :
Aime ceux qui ont l'âme replète
De bons sentiments, de bonne intention,
Et veillent sur toi avec attention.

Sois douce envers tous les malheureux ;
Chéris ceux qui par toi sont heureux ;
Sois surtout bonne et sérieuse,
Sans manquer d'être un peu riieuse.

Souris à ta mère, à ta nourrice ;
Déteste les méchants, hais le vice ;
Aime Dieu, aie confiance en toi,
Tu sauras bien des choses de moi.

Que tes jeunes et belles années
Soient à jamais de fleurs parsemées :
Car je songe à ton avenir,
De loin, avec un long soupir.

Les traits de ton charmant visage,
 Répondent bien à ton image.
 Quand pourrai-je renouveler
 Ce que j'envoie : un long baiser

Miscellaneous.

Je ne connais flatterie
 Ni sottise forfanterie.
 N'attends de moi nuls vers
 D'un goût par trop pervers.

Qu'il te suffise
 Que je te dise :
 Tu es aimable
 Autant qu'affable.

Bucolics.

I.

Errer dans la campagne
 Au bras de sa campagne,
 Par les beaux jours
 Qui sont toujours,
 Qui ne devine ?
 Faveur divine !
 C'est pour bien des gens
 Les plus doux moments.

II.

Un ciel brumeux,
 Un jour pluvieux,
 N'empêche une belle
 Qui n'est pas rebelle,
 D'avoir avec vous
 Un doux rendez-vous.

III.

L'amour tyrannise ;
 Qui ne s'humanise ?
 La belle cruelle
 Fait retour sur elle,
 Se laissant aimer,
 Et même baiser.

The Sunday Car Question.

Rien de plus beau sur l'Ontario
 Que Toronto,
 Ville entre toutes bien située,
 Et à portée
 D'une foule d'agréments,
 De monuments.
 Dedans sa rade spacieuse
 Et délicieuse,
 Circulent pendant l'été
 En sûreté
 Quantité de goëlettes
 En toilettes.
 La ville, pour parler net,
 A un aspect
 D'une fort belle apparence,
 De grande aisance.
 Elle a de nombreux tramways
 On ne peut mieux faits ;
 Lesquels sillonnent les rues
 A perte de vues.
 Mais elle craint de souffrir
 Pour son avenir,
 Qu'ils ne changent le silence
 Du dimanche,
 En divers amusements
 Pour les gens ;
 Et qu'en négligeant l'église
 Cela ne nuise
 Au calme, à la religion
 De la population.

The Jarvis Street Bicyclists.

One hundred and eighty-six Jarvis Street,
The humble abode of my retreat.

Dardant sur mes croisées
Toutes vitrées,
Le soleil du matin
Qui est si sain,
Rayonne sur la piste
Du bicycliste.
Des arbres la sombreur,
Grande douceur,
Ombrage les allées,
Droit alignées,
Et les coureurs d'velo,
A Toronto,
Qui font bien sans secousses
Toutes leurs courses.

— —

Men Past and Present.

Chez tous les peuples une foi nouvelle
A Dieu demande la vie éternelle,
Faisant entendre leurs plaintifs accents,
Offrant l'encens et beaucoup de présents.

Sincèrement je vois le Christianisme
Fort au dessus de ce vieux Judaïsme,
Qui, si longtemps endormi dans sa loi,
Entièrement avait perdu la foi
Que les prophètes autant que Moïse,
Grands hommes tous de la terre promise,
Vainement s'efforcèrent d'inculquer
Au peuple hébreu, et de le préparer
A supporter ses dures servitudes ;
A patiemment changer ses habitudes.

Or, dix-neuf siècles sont déjà passés,
 Et les Chrétiens par l'Esprit élevés,
 Retombent dans les mêmes profondeurs,
 Triste abîme de leurs prédécesseurs.
 Dès aujourd'hui on voit les masses folles,
 Aussi lâches et encore plus molles,
 Comme autrefois adorer le *Veau d'or* ;
 Ployer genou, s'abaisser plus encor
 Du côté que se trouve la richesse,
 Au moyen de la plus humble bassesse.

Je préfère beaucoup le moyen-âge,
 Qui avait la noblesse pour partage,
 A ces détestables et fausses gens
 Qui, par la ruse deviennent puissants ;
 Se croient quelque chose, et s'imaginent
 Qu'ils sont nés, et, pour la gloire cheminent ;
 Eux qu'intrigues ou faveurs ont placés
 Dans des emplois qu'ils n'ont pas mérités.

Qui oserait nier qu'ainsi va le monde
 Sur notre si vieille machine ronde ?

**On an Exhibition at Havergal College
 May 14th, 1897.**

Ce soir-là j'étais à peine entré
 Que je me vis aussitôt placé
 En face un essaim de jeunes filles,
 Charmant et tendre espoir des familles.
 Rangées en cercle sur des bancs,
 Selon leurs âges, selon leurs rangs ;
 Formant tout ensemble une corbeille
 Dont nos jardins n'ont point la pareille ;
 Semblables à ces belles fleurs
 Qui se vont épanouir en choeurs
 De chants harmonieux, douce musique ;
 Pour tout dire, c'était magnifique.

C'est donc par une belle instruction
 Jointe à une bonne éducation,
 Que se reflètent sur les visages
 De la bonté les suaves images ;
 Et leur impriment en traits vivants
 Ce que la femme a des plus touchants.

On John Eaton's Fire.

L'heureuse souvenance d'une boutique
 Tout-à-fait belle et chique,
 Fit que j'entrai, séduit par sa splendeur,
 Epris de sa grandeur.
 Mollement assis, l'ascenseur me monte,
 Je l'avoue à ma honte,
 A la salle-à-manger, vers ces beaux lieux
 Qui n'offrent rien de mieux.

Je m'plaçai sans tarder à une table
 Pour le moins assez stable ;
 Parcourant la liste de tous les mets,
 Espoir de mes souhaits,
 Dans la trompeuse, mais sottie assurance
 D'refaire connaissance
 Avec un gros biftec qu'un beau matin,
 J'avais eu, ayant faim.

A me servir une nymphe zélée,
 A l'instar de l'Hébée,
 S'empressa de m'offrir comme régal.
 De ce plat sans égal,
 Que l'on nomme, je crois, tarte-à-rhubarbe
 Et couleur de ma barbe.
 Je n'eus plus tôt à ma bouche porté
 De ce *pie* si vanté,
 Que je dus repousser chaque bouchée
 De pâte agglutinée.

Le ciel en son courroux et par vengeance,
 Se montra sans clémence,
 En rôtissant à ma seule intention
 Les plats et la maison.

Aussi doux, cependant, que magnanime,
 Il n'eut pas de victime.

Ce qu'il faut au poète.

Je me souviens d'une romance
 Qu'en musique j'appris en France ;
 Disant qu'au poète il faut l'amour
 Pour faire à la muse sa cour.

Le vers sous sa plume s'égare ;
 Il reçoit l'idée qui pare :
 C'est vous, Mesdames, avec raison,
 Vous, qui faites naître la passion.

A votre intention, sous votre égide,
 C'est sur vous que sa rime se guide ;
 Qu'il reproduit et sans trop d'effort
 Ce que la muse lui jette en sort.

Il parle de vous, et c'est justice ;
 Il met ses vers à votre service.
 De même Homère peignant Hélène,
 Et les héros de toute la scène.

After a Visit to a Minister.

Que les hommes officiels de France
 Me font rire par leur suffisance !
 Ils affublent l'air républicain,
 Et vous ont des monarques le train.

Vive des Canadiens la franche brusquerie !
 Elle a un certain charme et plus de bonhomie.

TORONTO, June 2nd, 1897.

Boarding Houses.

To Miss Pearl Bennett, in Alexandrine or Heroic Verse.

Veux-tu du ménage t'épargner le tracas ?
 Va-t'en dans un *Boarding* vivre sans embarras.
 Là, ne t'en déplaie, tu auras pour toi-même :
 Paix, ris, confort, loisir et plats de toute crème ;
 Sans compter le beurre, les gâteaux, le pudding ;
 Et ce qu'on appelle *mince pies* de *Boarding* ;
 Le moëlleux matelas, linge fin de boutiques ;
 Couvertures chaudes et sommiers élastiques.

Rebelle à tous *potins*, c'est de pure invention
 Qu'une oreille avide s'en choque avec raison.
 L'esprit ne s'y perd point, non plus que les manières ;
 Ni la santé, sous l'oeil bienveillant de ces mères
 Qui, sans autre profit qu'un noble dévoûment,
 Fcmt de leurs demeures le plus bel ornement ;
 D'où les pensionnaires toutes à leurs toilettes,
 S'en vont tuer le temps à diverses emplettes.

Si je peins les *Boardings* avec tant de chaleur,
 C'est que j'en puis parler en profond connaisseur.
 Le bon goût domine ; la propreté parfaite
 Répand sur ces maisons un charmant air de fête ;
 Sied à une ville, proclame Toronto,
La Reine de l'Ouest, the Queen of Ontario.

Old Girls' Club Bazaar

IN AID OF THE WORKING BOYS' HOME.

Vous demandez, Mesdemoiselles,
 Que, pour chanter votre Bazar,
 Je dois, témoin de ses merveilles,
 Le célébrer de votre part.

A votre âge, pour les misères,
 Vous possédez l'âme des mères
 Qui vont dès lors, d'un air radieux,
 Vous contempler du haut des cieux.

Elles savent qu'avec instance,
 Vous protégez la tendre enfance,
 Et secourez les ouvriers
 Qu'au fond du cœur vous admirez.

L'amour du bien chez vous domine
 Par cette foi vraiment divine,
 Que Jésus-Christ, notre Seigneur,
 A déposée en votre cœur.

J'en donne ici le témoignage,
 Qu'en vers j'écris dans mon langage.

E. C.

(Havergal College, Friday, June 4th, 1897.)

Bloated Man.

Parmi tant d'animaux, que l'homme est tyrannique !
 Qu'il soit en République ou qu'il soit monarchique ;
 Qu'il soit Juif ou Chrétien ou bien Mahométan ;
 Qu'il lise la Bible, qu'il lise le Koran ;
 Qu'il soit, manchot, bête, gueux, riche ou bon apôtre ;
 Toujours il se croira plus et mieux qu'aucun autre.

Tout comme la terre, le monde tournera ;
 Sans cesse à tour de rôle un peuple périra :
 Témoin des temps passés l'immense multitude,
 Qui n'a laissé d'elle que vaste solitude.
 J'imagine sciemment que nos fières notions
 Ne sont, dans l'ensemble, que de pures fictions.

Telles ont disparu des quantités de terres ;
 Et avec leurs travaux, les villes de nos pères.
 Ces bas-fonds que les mers recouvrent de leurs eaux,
 Étaient des empires, peut-être, encor plus beaux.
 Ne nous flattons donc point, pygmées que nous sommes ;
 Dieu seul nous a conduits ; Dieu seul connaît les hommes.

To Mrs. Frank Moss and Miss Helen Gzowski.

1837.

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.

1897.

Il était dit qu' un nom français
Assurerait pour le succès
De la plus heureuse des Reines,
Dont les qualités souveraines
Se font sentir en tous endroits,
Qu'un peuple entier jouit de ses droits.

Il porte avec lui l' allégeance
De ces anciens sujets de France ;
Il présente, *Premier Laurier*,
La foi du Dominion entier.
Et ce français de cette terre,
Belle conquête d' Angleterre,
Vient honorer sa Majesté,
De soixante ans le jubilé.

L'Inde et toutes les colonies,
A leur tour et sans jalousies,
Acclament bonne Victoria,
Comme Reine du Canada.
Heureux un peuple libre et tout en fêtes,
Qui assure par ses nobles conquêtes
La grandeur de la fière et libre Albion,
Du monde entier la première nation.

Que Dieu, qui sur nous toujours règne,
Accorde à Victoria, et daigne
Lui conserver bien des années
De paix, de bonheur couronnées !

On se rappellera longtemps
Ce beau règne de soixante ans,
Que les Anglais ont célébré
Par un immense Jubilé.

June 24th.

E. C.

ENGLISH ESSAYS.

Alack ! what poverty my Muse brings forth,
 That, having such a scope to show her pride,
The argument, all bare, is of more worth
 Than when it hath my added praise beside !

—SHAKESPEARE, *Sonnet*, CIII.

A Complaint.

Though us'd to the whims and ways of the world,
 I shall not my poor and tir'd head abase
 To stoop unconquer'd before misled slaves,
 Who spitefully would use their master's name,
 In the hope they through him might eas'ly gain
 That dear and little sum of knavish power
 To which they themselves couldn't have any claim.

E. COULON.

June, 1897.

Gentlemen.

Beware of the ignorant people's judgment !
 For such, is appearance ever potent.
 Such a one they consider quite a *fad*,
 Who impertinent acts, and is well clad.
 A one eyed may to satisfaction play
 With purblind at blindman's buff, now-a-day.
 So many eager fools will, by the way,
 Ever despise all intellectual sway ;
 And run so much the more after that lore
 Which riches alone can safe buy and store ;
 Which again to them must forthwith procure :
 Ease, comfort, repute, power ; and secure
 For them a right to be called *gentlemen*.

E. C.

To Mrs. Frank Moss and Miss Helen Gzowski.

The Frank love of Paris for Helen
 Was one of mortal bliss and heaven ;
 It caus'd how'ver such a tug of war,
 That the Greeks and Trojans went so far,
 As to fight, as men fight, ten whole years,
 And shed for Helen their blood and tears.

E. C.

June 24th, 1897.

Ladies.

We all wear clothes to be in the fashion !
 Such is woman's common and great passion.
 Great though and precious as its measure be,
 It cannot surely compare, as w'll see,
 With that which consists for her dignity,
 To be consider'd and call'd a lady.
 And though her manners and her thoughts
 Be coarser still than other noughts,
 She will hence fairly be demented,
 If you do not take her for granted.

The useful hours she will spend
 In idle talk, giggles, dress ; and tend,
 Out of a band-box coming in full dress,
 Simpletons to capture, and surely impress
 That forever numerous and loud class of men,
 Who consider as *ladies*, dressed up women ;
 Despising that quiet, gentle demeanour
 Of true worth, virtue, and simple armour.

E. C.

Homonyms.

Goodall, Mrs. Youngheart, Miss Pearl, Kremer,
Humphrey, Coulon, Herring, Treby.

So may in our midst *goodall* be,
While *youngheart*, *pearl* are what we see,
Since gossips are what we *cremer*,*
And since common sense we prefer ;
Therefore will our *humdrum* defray
Conversations which, in some way,
Must by fits and starts and reason
Passions tumultuous *coolon*.

To err is *erring* :
Prudence befitting ;
Thus were the Romans off their lee,
Lick'd by Hannibal at *Trebie*.

E. C.

* Cremer for cremate.

In Memoriam.

A devoted and exemplary life, or a tribute of affection to a Sister.

At all times men have been prompt at bombast, and have devoted their high flown literary ability to exalt the high deeds of chivalry, warfare and military achievements; they have been loth to hand down to posterity, as examples to the world, that most benevolent, precious above all, spirit of goodness, self-devotion and self-sacrifice; because it was limited to a very small sphere of action.

But this preamble diverts me from the tribute in view; and that tribute is, I must be excused, to trace down, while able to do so, the rare qualities which adorned my dear departed sister whose life was but a continual action of good deeds, thoughts and kindnesses to every one *sans* exception.

She was yet a very young woman, when she was left unprepared and unexperienced, at the head of our family by the early death of our mother. All who have known her, were unanimous to acknowledge she was the kindest creature they ever met. Though of a very weak constitution, her tenacity and courageous spirit fought the battle of life, as no one in her physical capacity could have done and succeeded as she did.

The events of the French revolution of 1848, left our father broken in fortune; his important and well-known firm of *Commissionnaire de Roulage et Expéditeur* at Paris, in the busy centre of that Capital, run down and ruined as well as his hopes, from which he never recovered, in spite of his many attempts to better himself; he was obliged to let his children shift for themselves unaided. The little that was left him was chiefly employed to allow our brother to continue his course of studies in one of the famous schools of

engineers at Paris. As to my sister and self, well, we had, or rather my dear sister had, since I was too young in years, to shape our course the best way she could.

She came to Canada and assumed the arduous duties of a governess in one of the first ladies' seminary, then extent in the city of Toronto.

She was not long to call me to her; and with the little money and learning she possessed, she soon made me clothe the garb of a would-be teacher. It looked so queer to see a lad of my size undertake such a task that the good people of Toronto soon took an interest in my youthful endeavours, and I soon became a general favourite among parents and pupils.

Still, my sister was not satisfied with that simple result; she felt her work would not be satisfactory if she did not try to bring her second and older brother next to her loving heart, and surround herself with her full brotherly affections, since she could not depend on having her father, whom she loved and respected so much, he being of a restless disposition, ever ready to try his hand at anything he came across to further his schemes of fortune.

Our father who had left his country and had suffered by the many political changes, came to the United States with the firm belief that his quality of a staunch Republican whose family and name had more or less been connected with the wars* of the French and English Colonists, would be taken for granted, when on the free soil of America. He forgot that a stranger thrown among an English speaking population, must pass for a lost unit, when supported only by what he could have claimed, and whatever political creed he adhered to.

* Our father claiming relationship with Coulon de Jumonville, a French officer, killed in 1754.

Our brother, on whose capacity and learning we had reckoned so much, did not succeed to ingratiate himself in the minds of Canadians; his thorough French education, ideas and manners had been too strongly rooted in him to allow him to take up at once the language, manners and ideas of the people he came in contact with. He was, however, attached to the Board of Works at Montreal, a position he owed to the friendship which *Mr. and Mrs. Ridout of the Bank of Upper Canada* entertained for me.

In spite of the good will of *Sir E. P. Taché*, then minister of finances, he did not long retain his position that he had filled with zeal and ability, owing to the ill will of a noted and influential politician, whose power had been surprised by a third party decidedly hostile to my brother.

It was a great blow to us all and in particular to my sister, who became clamorous for sunny France, where she thought she might find a larger field for her brothers and her own activity.

I was too well anchored with the people of Toronto, where I could count every body for my friend, to think for a moment to move out of my pleasant sphere.

After their futile attempt in France, my sister and brother returned to me, and things went smooth enough, till it was debated about settling forever in Canada.

Opinions differed: my sister clung to France and dreaded the idea of parting forever from a country for which she had retained such vivid youthful recollections; and it was decided I should marry in a family that had been so much and so early connected with our past history.

It was not long after she saw her mistake, as her ways and affections had turned Canadian, in spite of herself and unaware to her.

The result was that as we had no longer any deep-rooted sympathy in Toronto, it were better to disperse and try our luck elsewhere.

My sister went back to France; my brother to California where our father pretended he had struck a bonanza; as for me, I loitered for another year hoping to recover my lost ground. My young wife became despondent and lonesome; and after refusing a chair of modern languages at Halifax, N.S., I also retraced my steps to *la belle France*.

Two years of French life made me a dissatisfied citizen: I had too long and too young been severed from French habits to find myself satisfied with my lot, which was however one of a rather material bliss and quiet.

My sister could not accustom herself to live all by herself; her loving heart looked for new occasions to devote herself to her kindred; and although she might have had a life of modest ease and comfort in one of the most pleasant provinces of France, in Touraine, she left all and would join her father and brother whose circumstances did certainly require her indomitable spirit.

She sailed, was wrecked in December, 1865, opposite Cherbourg, got safely on all fours out of the ship; and nothing daunted, sailed again from Southampton in a German ship which nearly foundered at sea, but yet arrived safe at New York, *en route* for California.

She entered the public schools of California where she endeared herself to everybody and became of great assistance to both her father and brother.

But our dear brother, learned as he was, was of a timid disposition, he having remained the quiet student of old, and not naturally inclined to *goheadism* and struggle among many who were his inferiors with regard to learning and capacity. He gave away to despondency, left California, went back to France

where he found even less sympathy, and died, God knows how, in 1870, mourned by us all and by me in particular who doted on him.

That was my first shock in life, and was the commencement of all my troubles and regrets.

My sister who had now centered all her deep affections upon me, withstood the loss better than I did; and time wore on, and she became more and more a useful and successful teacher in the public schools of California. For twenty years she kept her post supported, as she had been all the way, by her tireless industry and public opinion, till at last exhausted physically and mentally, she retired from public life and came back to France to end her pure, useful life and hard earned tranquility with me, whom she loved with the fondness of a mother.

She did not long enjoy that quiet she had so richly deserved, and after two years she breathed her dear and lovely spirit into me, making me ever regret the time she had spent so long away from me, leaving me alone in the world with a dear and tender wife that was soon to follow her.

Yet, I am positive that the good she did, the examples of a pure and devoted life have not remained trackless.

Those who have known her are witness that this Christian world becomes the more humane and good, inasmuch as it is composed of the elements, however small the particles may be, that constitute what we might term the image of that divine essence which the good shall possess and enjoy even in this life and in the next, for their kindness, self-devotion and sacrifice.

E. COULON.

TORONTO, May, 1897.

CURRICULUM VITÆ.

TESTIMONIALS

TO

PROF. EMILE COULON,

1856-1868.

From His Lordship ARMAND DE CHARBONNEL, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Toronto.—(Toronto, June 8th, 1856.)

Le porteur, M. E. COULON, est le seul Français que je connaisse en Canada qui prononce sa langue avec le véritable accent de Paris, avec l'*ore rotundo* dont parle Horace.

M. COULON n'a pas besoin de se dire de Paris; et il se dirait de Lyon, de Marseille ou de Bordeaux que je ne le croirais pas.

From Mrs. Justice SULLIVAN.—(Toronto, June 9th, 1856.)

SIR,—I have much pleasure in offering my testimonial of the great ability and assiduity you evinced in the instruction of my daughters in the French language. It will afford me gratification to hear that you succeed in obtaining the appointment of which you are desirous in the Upper Canada College.

From Mrs. FORSTER.—(Pinehurst, June 13th, 1856.)

Mr. E. COULON has instructed Mrs. FORSTER's pupils the last two years and a half, and she can conscientiously recommend him as a most excellent, painstaking and indefatigable master.

From Mr. W. HAWKINS.—(Toronto, June 13th, 1856.)

Mr. E. COULON has been giving lessons at my house for the last two years, and during that period I have had reason to form the highest opinion of his capabilities professionally, and of his character and deportment in every respect; and I may safely affirm I should consider him an acquisition in any institution where a thorough good French master is required.

From Dr. M. C. HOWE, Head Master of the Toronto Grammar School.—(Toronto, June 16th, 1856.)

MR. E. COULON has been employed as French Master in the Toronto Grammar School for the last twelve months, and during that time I have had every reason to be satisfied with the interest he has manifested in the discharge of his duties. He has always been zealous, attentive, and painstaking, and I am much pleased with the progress that most of the pupils committed to his charge have made under his instructions. I believe him to be a superior French scholar, and from my own experience I can pronounce favourably as to his capabilities of imparting instruction, "as well as to his appreciation of order and discipline, and his skill in the management of boys."

I cannot therefore hesitate in recommending him as eminently qualified for the appointment of French master in any institution requiring his services.

From Mr. J. FRANK.—(Toronto, June 16th, 1856.)

During the period that MR. E. COULON has been engaged as French master in my school he has discharged his duties in a manner which has given satisfaction not only to myself, but also, so far as I know, to the parents of my pupils.

From G. RIDOUT, Esq.—(Toronto, June 16th, 1856.)

DEAR SIR,— As you may be an applicant for the vacancy in Upper Canada College, caused by M. DE LA HAYE'S retirement, I felt every inclination to offer my evidence of your fitness for the charge, but unfortunately my ignorance of the French language prevents me from being able to do you the justice I believe you deserve, and my opinion from having any weight. I know that you command the respect and attention of your scholars, and that your mode of teaching, and your accent, by those supposed to be competent judges of the language, are much commended.

For more than a year and a half I have thought so too.

From Mrs. CARRUTHERS.—(Toronto, June 16th, 1856.)

Having received much satisfaction from the plan in which MR. E. COULON has conducted the instruction of my children, I have no hesitation in recommending him as possessing the requisites of a good French master, viz., a sound knowledge of the language, united with care and attention in instruction.

From Dr. RYERSON, Chief Superintendent of Education in Upper Canada.—(Toronto, June 19th, 1856.)

I have much pleasure in stating that, having known MR. COULON for some time, I respect him as a most worthy and intelligent young man. I have heard competent judges speak most favourably of his zeal and ability as a teacher of the French language; and from the manner in which he taught my daughter at the school of MRS. FORSTER, I believe him to be an excellent teacher, well qualified to be French master in any private or public school.

From Mrs. RIDOUT, Bank of Upper Canada.—(Toronto, June 19th, 1856.)

MY DEAR SIR,—It gives me much pleasure to testify as to your abilities as an Instructor in the French language; during the three years you have been known to my family, we have uniformly found you punctual in your attendance and indefatigable in your endeavours to improve your pupils. I sincerely trust that you may be successful in obtaining the appointment of French Master in the Canada College, a situation which I feel convinced you are eminently qualified to fill.

From Mrs. BALDWIN.—(Toronto, June 20th, 1856.)

Mrs. Baldwin has much pleasure in bearing testimony to MR. E. COULON's abilities as a Teacher, his untiring zeal and industry in the management of his pupils, together with the thorough appreciation of the genius of his own language, render him, in her estimation, eminently qualified for the duties of his profession, and in thus recommending him, she feels that she is not only stating her own opinion but also reiterating that of all who know him.

From Dr. McCAUL, President of the Toronto University.—(Toronto, June 25th, 1856.)

I hereby certify, that MR. E. COULON has given instruction in French to some members of my family, and that he has discharged his duty as teacher with ability and punctuality.

From His Honour the Recorder Mr. G. DUGGAN.—(Toronto, June 25th, 1856.)

I have had the pleasure of knowing MR. E. COULON for four years, during which time he has been French Tutor to my two sons, for the first year residing with me. He is a gentleman whom I can cordially recommend as possessing in an eminent degree, the qualities of a good Teacher.

He possesses a clear view of the principles, structure and peculiarities of his native language, the French, with a very distinct pronounciation, with the faculty without being superficial of communicating with much facility a knowledge of the language to the best advantage of the learner.

He is diligent, strict, and persevering in his duties, at the same time taking a most kind and friendly interest in his pupil. I can speak with confidence and with the greatest satisfaction of his amiability of demeanour, and of his being in every sense most exemplary and richly meriting encouragement and confidence in his profession.

From Mrs. T. D. HARRIS.—(Toronto, June 23rd, 1856.)

I can with confidence recommend MR. E. COULON as a French master, he having taught in my family for three years.

From Messrs. ROSSIN BROTHERS.—(Toronto, June 23rd, 1856.)

MR. E. COULON is known to us to have an excellent method of teaching his native language, and possessing the real Parisian accent. We could strongly recommend him as a very attentive Teacher of the French language.

From Mrs. ROBERTSON.—(Toronto, June 54th, 1856.)

MR. E. COULON has been teaching my children French for two years and a half, and during that time he has given entire satisfaction. His method of communicating the knowledge of his language is so good that young people improve rapidly without appearing to consider their lessons irksome.

From the Rev. H. J. GRASSETT.—(Toronto, July 27th, 1865.)

MR. E. COULON has given instruction in French to several members of my family, and I have reason to believe that he is a gentleman of superior qualifications as a Teacher of that language, and of unexceptionable moral character.

From His Honour Judge HAGARTY.—(Toronto, July 30th, 1858.)

MR. E. COULON has instructed my sons and several of my friends and relatives in the French language, and I have the strongest reason for believing that he is extremely well qualified for that duty. He possesses the peculiar advantage of understanding the English language far better than most gentleman who undertake to teach French to English people. I wish him every success in his professional career.

From R. J. PENNEFATHER, Private Secretary to the Governor General of Canada.—(Toronto, Juillet 1856.)

MONSIEUR,—Son Excellence le Gouverneur Général m'a chargé d'accuser réception de votre lettre contenant votre demande de la charge de professeur de français au collège de Upper Canada, avec les incluses lettres de recommandation, que j'ai mises devant Elle, et de vous informer que, d'après les ordres que j'ai reçus de Son Excellence, je les ai remises au département du Secrétaire provincial.

From Dr. DAN. WILSON, LL.D., Professor of History and English Literature in University College.—(Toronto, July 1862.)

MR. EMILE COULON is well known to me as a highly successful teacher of modern languages ; and as such has been specially selected for several successive years as a member of the Board of Examiners of the University of Toronto.

I have great satisfaction in bearing testimony to his ability and acquirements.

From J. G. BOWES, Mayor.—(Toronto, July 1862.)

Whereas the bearer EMILE COULON, formerly of the city of Paris, France, and now of the city of Toronto, being about to visit France, Germany and other places on the Continent of Europe, has applied to me for a certificate of citizenship :

I, John George Bowes, Mayor of the city of Toronto, in the Province aforesaid, do hereby certify that the said EMILE COULON is known to me, that he has been a resident of this city for the past ten years, and that he is a gentleman worthy of due credence and belief.

In testimony whereof I hereunto place my hand and have caused the seal of the city to be affixed at Toronto, this twelfth day of July in the year of our Lord 1862.

From JOHN LANGTON, M.A., Trin. Coll., Cam.—(Toronto, July 4th, 1862.)

MR. EMILE COULON has been several times selected as a Member of the Board of Examiners in the University of Toronto, while I held the office of Vice-Chancellor of that University, and we have always had reason to be well satisfied with his ability in that responsible situation.

I have the more satisfaction in giving this testimonial to his merits in the Department which has come under my own immediate notice, as I am aware how highly he is esteemed otherwise by his numerous pupils in this city.

From Dr. RYERSON, D.D., Chief Superintendent of Education for U. C., and Head of the Department of Public Instruction.—(Toronto, July 15th, 1862.)

SIR,—I hereby certify under my hand and seal of office that MR. EMILE COULON, resident of the city of Toronto, is employed as teacher of the French language in the schools of Upper Canada, and that he has held the said appointment for the last four years; also that the said appointment is held under authority of the Government of the Province and that it requires residence in the city of Toronto and is of indefinite duration.

I also certify that the said MR. E. COULON has been allowed temporary leave of absence by the Department from the duties of said office, for the purpose of a visit to Europe.

From J. COCKBURN, M.A., Principal of U. C. College.—(Toronto, July 16th, 1862.)

Understanding that MR. EMILE COULON is about to proceed to Europe, and having been requested to state my opinion regarding his qualifications as a French Master, it gives me great pleasure to state that during the three years (1858-61) that I was Rector of the Model Grammar School for Upper Canada, MR. COULON conducted the French classes in that Institution to my entire satisfaction, and carefully trained the pupils in a sound grammatical knowledge of the French language.

I cordially recommend MR. COULON to the kind consideration of the heads of the various schools and colleges he may visit in France and elsewhere.

Taken from the pamphlet entitled UNIVERSITY QUESTION.—(Toronto, 1862.)

The following names of gentlemen who have acted as examiners in admission or rejection of candidates, alike to matriculation, honors and degrees, supply the best guarantee of the practical character of the examinations—the high standard of which is attested by the examination papers:—the Rev. M. Willis, D.D., Principal of Knox's College; Rev. S. S. Nelles, M.A., President of Victoria College; Rev. A. Lillie, D.D., Theological Professor of the Congregational Institution; Rev. J. Taylor, M.D., Theological Professor of the United Presbyterian Divinity Hall; Rev. G. P. Young, M.A., Professor of Logic and Metaphysics, Knox's College; Rev. E. J. Senkler, M.A., of Caius College, Cambridge; Rev. E. Schluter, M.A.; Rev. W. Stennett, M.A., Principal of Upper Canada College; Rev. W. Ormiston, B.A., late one of the masters of the Normal School; Adam Crooks, LL.B., barrister-at-law; James Brown, M.A.; T. J. Robertson, M.A., head master of the Normal School; Robert Checkley, M.D.; Thomas Ridout, Esq.; F. Montivani, LL.D.; E. Crombie, M.A., barrister-at-law; Michael Barret, B.A., M.D.,

President of the Toronto School of Medicine; L. S. Oille, M.A., M.D.; G. R. R. Cockburn, M.A., Rector of the Model Grammar School; William Wedd, M.A., classical master, Upper Canada College; H. Haacke, French translator to the Legislative Assembly; *Emile Coulon*, French Master, Model Grammar School; E. Billings, F.G.S., paleontologist to the Provincial Geological Survey.

With such gentlemen, selected, as they have been, with an anxious desire to secure able and independent examiners, I feel confident that no University examinations have ever been conducted with stricter impartiality than those of the University of Toronto, under the very system so unjustly maligned.

From Mr. ANCELIN, Mayor of Rosny.—(Saint-Mandé, 26 Septembre 1862.)

Je, soussigné, Ancelin Adolphe Henri, chevalier de la légion-d'honneur, officier de l'Université, chef du 49^e bataillon de la garde nationale de la Seine, ancien directeur d'une Ecole spéciale préparatoire aux Ecoles du gouvernement et au Baccalauréat, à Saint-Mandé, déclare que M. EMILE COULON s'est montré constamment élève laborieux et de conduite régulière et qu'il a suivi avec succès ses études classiques. En foi de quoi je lui ai délivré le présent certificat.

From Dr. HERMAN WEISSENBORN, ordentlicher Professor am vereinigten Gymnasium zu ERFURT, etc.—(Erfurt, den 4ten October 1862.)

HERR EMILE COULON aus Toronto, den ich während seiner Anwesenheit in Erfurt genauer habe kennen lernen, besitzt bei einem Auslande seltene Fertigkeit und Sicherheit in der deutschen Sprache; et hat so wohl in Betreff seiner Aussprache wie in den Formen und den Regeln der Syntax, einen guten Grund gelegt und ich zweifle nicht dass wenn er in dieser Weise fort studirt, er in Kurzem von einem gebornen Deutschen sich kaum unterscheiden wird.

De M. L. AUBRY, Président de la Société des Instituteurs et des Institutrices du Département de la Seine, approuvée par arrêté de M. le ministre de l'Intérieur.—(Paris, 29 Octobre 1862.)

MONSIEUR,—J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que la Société, dans sa séance du 26 octobre courant, a accordé son approbation à votre ouvrage ayant pour titre : *Nouvelle Grammaire Française*.

Je suis heureux de vous transmettre les conclusions du Rapport de la Commission chargée de l'examiner, conclusions adoptées unanimement par la Société : "Reconnaissant donc que l'auteur a cherché sérieusement les moyens de faciliter aux Anglais l'étude de notre langue, et, qu'à ce point de vue particulier, il a très heureusement traité une grande partie des points les plus importants, votre Commission vous propose d'accorder votre approbation à la nouvelle Grammaire Française de M. E. COULON."

GRAMMAR MASTER'S CITY CERTIFICATE.—Standing in Examination.—(Oakland, June 24th, 1868.)

	Credits.	Per Stan.
Arithmetic	75	100
Grammar	92	100
Geography	61	100
History of U. S.	64	100
Teaching	80	100
Algebra	38	50
Physiology	44	50
Natural Philosophy ..	50	50
Penmanship	45	50
English Composition ..	40	50
Orthography	44	50
Defining	48	50
Reading and Elocution ..	35	50
Government of U. S.	42	50
Law of California	34	50

Extra Credits, not to exceed 25 for each branch :

Drawing	15	
Experience in teaching ..	25	
Total	832	1000
Percentage		83

From E. RYERSON, D.D., Department of Public Instruction for U. C.—(Toronto, July 15th, 1863.)

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that the Government having directed the discontinuance of the Model Grammar School, your services will no longer be required in that Institution. It is the wish of the Council of Public Instruction, and it shall be my endeavour to procure from the Government the means of paying your salary to the end of the current year.

In terminating my official connection with you, I beg to express the high sense I entertain of the ability, skill and diligence with which you have discharged your duties in connection with the Model Grammar School and my earnest desire for your future happiness and prosperity.

Opinion of the BULLETIN. — (San Francisco, November 21st, 1868.)

MR. EMILE COULON is the author of a Grammar of the French language, which seems to combine many peculiar advantages.

It comprises carefully prepared Vocabularies and Exercises, a complete Grammar to the Syntax, and a Reading Book. The verbs are fully detailed; a new rule for the formation of all irregular verbs is introduced; the derivative tenses are placed next to those from which they are derived, and the difficulty in using the prepositions, one of the worst perplexities of the beginner, is virtually removed by the method of PROF. E. COULON.

From Dr. FITZGERALD, State Superintendent of Education for California.—(*California Teacher*, October, 1868.)

NOUVELLE GRAMMAIRE FRANÇAISE: comprising Vocabularies and Exercises. A Complete Grammar to the Syntax, etc., and a Reading Book. Par EMILE COULON. Toronto: W. C. Chewett & Co., King street, East.—“This work, though consisting of only one hundred and ninety-one 16mo. pages, will give him who thoroughly masters them a very good knowledge of the French language. It is divided into three parts: the first part contains vocabularies, and examples for their application freed from intricate idioms; the second part treats of Syntax; and the third part has elegant examples for reading, arranged especially to present in contrast the differences of the two languages—the French and English. “*General Terminations* of each person in verbs, whether regular or irregular,” and the “*Formations* of the Tenses in irregular verbs,” are important additions not found in similar works. Altogether, the plan of the work is judicious, and the execution good. The author of this work is now a teacher in the South Cosmopolitan School, in this city.”
