

speedily flitted and the Château again waited silently for a tenant, until the Government bought it out and out from the Grants, and made it the official residence for Governors of Lower Canada temporarily resident in Montreal.

For half a century it was occupied by successive governors who made many alterations and additions, none of which may be correctly described as improvements. Lord Metcalfe was the last resident governor, but for some years after his establishment in a new government house the Château was used for departmental offices. When Montreal ceased to be the provincial capital, the Château served various purposes. For several years the courts sat there, and afterwards certain rooms were used for classes of the Normal School and of the Medical Faculty of Laval.

About twelve years ago its fortunes touched low water mark, for in the hall where the representatives of three great nations had sat in council, civic magistrates meted justice to the vulgarst offenders.

In 1893 the Château was sold at public auction by the Provincial Government, and bought by the Corporation of the City of Montreal, with the intention of preserving the building and establishing in it a free public archaeological, scientific and historical museum.

This happy result was brought about chiefly by the zeal and persistence of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, which in the year 1895 was given possession of the Château and permanently installed there as custodians for the people.



Hy

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