

Celebration of Sir James LeMoine's Eightieth Anniversary of His Birth

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Many personal friends and admirers of our esteemed fellow-citizen, Sir James M. LeMoine, D.C.L., F.R.S.C., the historian of Quebec, drove out to his manor house, Spencer Grange, this afternoon, to congratulate the versatile author upon the attainment of his eightieth birthday.

There is probably no other Quebecker who enjoys to a greater extent the esteem, and the respect of his fellow-citizens, than does the octogenarian knight of literature, and of Spencer Grange, who first saw the light of day in this city on the 24th of January, 1825.

It is not too much to say that Quebec owes a debt of gratitude to Sir James M. LeMoine, that can never be repaid. No man has done more than he to make known the many fascinating details of our romantic past. Nobody has done more successful work in rescuing from oblivion the manuscript, and other sources of both our ancient and comparatively modern history. It is impossible in the brief compass of a congratulatory birthday notice to even recapitulate the amount of literary work in connection with Quebec, and its immediate surroundings, which has flown from the pen of this gifted author.

Over thirty books, some in English, others in French, besides half as many papers on various historical subjects, read before the Royal Society of Canada, eloquently testify to the literary industry of our respected Knight.

Sir James LeMoine's indiscriminate use of two languages—so uncommon an occurrence— even in this age of advanced culture—is doubtless to be attributed to his dual origin; for while his father traced his descent to the French LeMoynes, of one of the first French families which emigrated from Normandy to Quebec, about 1650.