

THE SEIGNIORIAL MANOR OF THE FIRST
SEIGNEUR OF BEAUPORT, 1634.

I HAVE pleasure in laying, before the members of the Literary and Historical Society, the enclosed communication with the plate and inscription to which it relates, from the widow of the late Col. B. C. A. Guky, of Darnoc, Beauport. It sets forth the recovery, from the ruins of the Beauport Manor House, of a lead plate, affording a written record of the laying of the foundation stone, on the 26th July, 1634, of the historical homestead of the fighting *Seigneurs* of Beauport,—the Gifarts, the Juchereaux and the Duchesnays. The *fac simile* and description of the inscription I can guarantee, on comparing with the lead plate itself, kindly forwarded for examination by Mrs. Guky, are so accurate, that they leave little for me to add. Nay, I would have been led to detect here the hand of an antiquarian, had I not strong suspicions that Mrs. Guky's amanuensis in this case, was her talented daughter, Miss Guky.

The familiar old pile alleged to have been the headquarters of the Marquis of Montcalm, during the siege of 1759, and in which so many generations of Duchesnays and some of Col. Guky's children were born, became the prey of flames in 1879, it is said, by the act of a vandal, an incendiary; thus perished the most ancient stronghold of the proud feudal Lords of Beauport—the stone manor of Surgeon Robert Gifart—the safe retreat against the Iroquois of the warlike Juchereau Duchesnay, one of whose ancestors, in 1645, had married Marie Gifart, or Giffard, a daughter of the bellicose Esculapius from Perche, France, Surgeon Robert Gifart. The massive manor stood in front of the more modern dwelling Col. Guky had erected, at Darnoc, in 1865, and rather intercepted the view of Quebec to be had from