

## SIR JAMES MACPHERSON LEMOINE.

OF ALL the Canadians who have sung the praises of their native land, perhaps none is more entitled to distinction, and yet less known to his fellow countrymen than the subject of this sketch. Sir James Macpherson LeMoine is French on his father's side, and, as his second name implies, Scotch on his mother's side of the family. He himself was born in Quebec on January 24, 1825, and is therefore nearly 75 years of age. His father, Benjamin LeMoine, who was a partner in the exporting house of Stuart & LeMoine, of Quebec, was a descendant of a distinguished French family, from the neighborhood of Rouen, Normandy. The family came, with many others, to the new world, and their name is to be found in many of the early records. Sir James' mother, Julia Ann Macpherson, was a daughter of Mr. Daniel Macpherson, who went to Philadelphia from Fort William, near Inverness, Scotland, and, after leaving there with other U.E. Loyalists, settled in Canada. Sir James LeMoine spent a good deal of his early life with his grandfather, who died at St. Thomas, P.Q., in 1840. The Petit Seminaire de Quebec was where this gentleman was educated, and he later on spent five years in the law office of the late Hon. Judge Jos. Noel Bosse, until, in 1850, he was called to the bar. His professional duties have divided the honors with his literary work, and the two subjects which he has found most interesting are the study of ornithology and Canadian history. There is probably no man in Canada better informed upon everything appertaining to this country. Legends, customs, noble deeds done in the past are all familiar to him, and many of them, it is to be feared, would have been lost forever but for his interest in the subject and the care he has taken to preserve these records. In 1860, Sir James published his first work, "L'Ornithologie du Canada," in two volumes, and two years later "The Legendary Lore of the St. Lawrence" came out. "Maple Leaves," "Quebec Past and Present," the last of the "Maple Leaves" series, "History, Literature and Ornithology Les Percheries du Canada," and, now, in 1898, the latest and one of the most delightful of his works, "The Legends of the St. Lawrence," are perhaps the best known of the books.

Sir James LeMoine has for years been recognized as an authority on the subjects mentioned, and, in consequence, is in possession of diplomas from many scientific societies, amongst them L'Institute Canadien, Quebec, from which he received a

diploma in 1849; Literary and Historical Society, Quebec, 1860; New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1875; State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1877; L'Institute Ethnographique de France, 1880; Societe Americaine de France, 1880; Societe Royal du Canada, French Section, 1882; Royal Society of Canada, English section; Paris Societe d'Histoire Diplomatique, 1887; International Ornithological Congress of Buda Pesth, Hungary, 1891, Trinity Historical Society, Dallas, Texas, Quebec Studio Club, 1897.

Last year, when Mr. J. M. LeMoine became Sir James Macpherson Lemoine, it was felt to be a well-won honor.

William Kirby and Gilbert Parker both acknowledge that their famous works,



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"Chien D'Or" and "Seats of the Mighty," were inspired by the tales of old Canada told by their brilliant fellow countryman, and in years to come as the deeds and customs recorded by him fade further back into the mists of history, future generations of writers may be proud to boast of the same inspiration.

Spencer Grange, the home of this author, has been spoken of as "a literary man's paradise," and within its walls such men as Dean Stanley, Charles Kingsley, Sala, Howells, Prof. Henry Drummond, Prof. Goldwin Smith, Charles G. D. Roberts, the late Francis Parkman, William Kirby, L. H. Frechette and many other eminent writers have been hospitably received, and took away with them some of the folk lore

which exercises so powerful an influence upon receptive minds. One is reminded by its charm of the feeling of the writer who said that could he make the ballads of a people anyone might make its laws.

### NOVEMBER MAGAZINES.

THE CANADIAN MAGAZINE for November is an interesting number. The article which is given first place is one that should be read by every Canadian, and, it is to be hoped, will be widely circulated in Europe and in the United States. It is a comparison of Canadian and European Summers, in which the author, Mr. J. Gordon Mowat, shows that both in duration and heat the Summers in Ontario surpass those of Britain, and that Canada has climates which are as warm in Summer as many parts of the south of France. "The Red River Expedition" is the first of a series of three articles by Mr. J. Jones Bell, an officer in Lord Wolseley's expedition, and it is a succinct and readable review of the troublous times with which it deals. Other articles, purely Canadian in character, are "M. C. Cameron, as I Knew Him," by Mr. Dan McGillicuddy, and "A Glance at Montreal and Some of Its Homes," by Mr. Henry Cecil Walsh. The number has also its usual complement of fiction.

The Girl's Realm is a new sixpenny monthly magazine from the press of Hutchinson & Co., London. It is handsomely illustrated, and the general get up is excellent. It will retail in Canada at 20c.

### SUICIDE AT HALIFAX.

Charles S. Defreytas, bookseller and stationer, committed suicide Nov. 3, in the cellar of his store in Brunswick street, Halifax, by shooting himself in the head. He made an assignment three days before. The total liabilities were \$1,000, and the deceased's creditors had granted all necessary extension of time. There was to have been a meeting of creditors at 2.30 p.m., and when last seen, at about 1 o'clock, Defreytas seemed to be in good spirits. He had recently insured his life for \$1,000. He leaves a wife and seven children, was a sober and respectable man, and must have killed himself while mentally unbalanced by despondency.

### NEW CANADIAN NOVEL.

The Ontario Publishing Co., Toronto, the publishers of The Canadian Magazine, are about to issue a new novel called "Hypnotized?" The experiments of Sir Hugh Galbraith, by Julian Durham (Mrs. Henshaw, of Vancouver, B.C.) The motif of the book is the possibility of unconscious hypnotism. Cloth, \$1.25; paper, 75c.