

SPENCER GRANGE

ITS GRAPE FESTIVAL.

(From *Montreal Gazette*, 26th September, 1896.)

"Spencer Grange had its customary Grape Festival on the 5th inst., some thirty literary friends of Mr. LeMoine and many of his Sillery neighbors sharing in its enjoyments. The gathering on the 5th was the 32nd anniversary of the foundation of the Festival. Its beginnings were associated with the first formal steps toward Confederation and with the visit to Canada of a famous journalist and man of letters, George Augustus Sala. The latter gentleman had been sent out by the London *Telegraph* to attend the meeting of delegates and watch the proceedings on behalf of the British public. Mr. Sala, having been introduced to Mr. LeMoine, already well known by his "Maple Leaves" and "Ornithology," expressed a desire to meet some others of Quebec's literary men. As the grape season was at hand, Mr. LeMoine conceived the happy plan of inviting his friends to a grape festival. Mr. Sala's wit and Mr. LeMoine's viticulture attracted a goodly company; several of the leading *litterati* of the "ancient capital" attended: the historians Garneau, Ferland; Chevalier Jean Chs. Taché, Professor Hubert Larue, Honble. Jos. Cauchon and others. All went merry as a marriage bell. The experiment having proved so successful, Mr. LeMoine repeated it in the following year and, though Mr. Sala's inspiring converse was missed, there was no lack of native talent to add lustre to the symposium. Next year the vinery at Spencer Grange was again the scene of a happy reunion, and thus the Festival came in the course of time to be an established institution. Sala is only one of a large number of distinguished visitors who have shared the cordial hospitality of Spencer Grange. Audubon, Parkman, Sulte, Prof. J. Campbell, Professor Hy. Drummond, Geo. W. Ross, John A. Cooper, Kingsley, Hallock, Sanford Fleming, Thos. McIlwraith, Goldwin Smith, Charles Carpmael, J. W. Bengough, Cremazie, Fréchette, Chauveau, Sterry Hunt, James Hannay, Denison, Faucher de St. Maurice, Paul DeCazes, Chs. G. Roberts, Dr. Henry H. Miles, Dr. J. W.