

He came to Canada soon after and held several educational positions, occupying the chair of classics for a year in the University of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, during the absence abroad of the Principal and Professor of Classics. He soon after went to the United States, and remained ten years in the City of New York, where he wrote for the press, prepared pupils for the university, held a clerkship under Commissioners of Emigration, and at intervals was editorially connected with a couple of papers.

He contributed a number of articles to each of the following periodicals (among others):—*The Round Table*, *St. Nicholas*, and *National Quarterly Review*, in New York; *Imperial Federation and Union Jack*, in England; and the *Canadian Monthly*, in Canada; at a later period contributing to *The Week* and *The Dominion Illustrated*. These various papers have been chiefly literary, social, and critical articles, fantastic and short stories, and some poems (serious and comic), not to mention nondescript columns written for several journals under various *noms de plume*. Of late years many of these articles have been specially devoted to an advocacy of Imperial Federation.

Mr. Crofton has, however, done more substantial work than that above mentioned. He is the author of "The Bewildered Querists", published in New York in 1875; "The Major's Big Talk Stories", London, 1881; "Hairbreadth Escapes of Major Mendax", Halifax and Philadelphia, 1889. These are all written in a style uncommon at the present day, being largely after the manner of "Baron Munchausen"; they are a succession of travellers' yarns of the most extraordinary and fantastic character, written in a remarkably amusing and interesting way; many of them appeared originally in *St. Nicholas*, and created an uncommon amount of interest as they came out. Mr. Crofton also published, a couple of years ago, a critical essay on "Haliburton, the Man and the Writer", which is a valuable addition to Nova Scotian literature.

For several years back he has been Provincial Librarian of Nova Scotia, and is also Secretary to the Nova Scotia Historical Society. In 1872 he married a daughter of Mr. F. W. Bradshaw, of Quebec. Mr. Crofton is a capital whist player and prominent in Halifax social and sporting circles. —*Dominion Illustrated*.

J. M. LeMOINE.

BY WM. KIRBY, F. R. S. C.

MY first acquaintance with the subject of this notice dates as far back as 1863, when I happened to be in Quebec, watching the progress of a bill introduced in Parliament, previous to Confederation.

To beguile a leisure hour, it so happened I had purchased a volume styled "Maple Leaves—a budget of historical, legendary and sporting lore, by J. M. LeMoine". I was so captivated by the dramatic interest infused into two out of several sketches it contained, *Château Bigot* and the *Golden Dog*, that I vowed to a friend, I would make them the groundwork of a Canadian novel. Thus originated my *Chien d'Or* romance.

Few have had such opportunities as Mr. LeMoine for studying the lights and shades of the old Province of Quebec. His early training, social *entourage*—love of books—antiquarian tastes and familiarity with the English as well as with the French idiom; his minute explorations by sea and by land of every nook and corner of his native province and even beyond it, the whole jotted down day by day in

his diary, naturally furnishes him with exceptional facilities to deal with Canadian subjects in a light or in a serious vein.

Two attractive departments seem to have engrossed his attention from the first, the study of early Canadian history and of popular ornithology.

In fact one of the first additions he made to his charming rustic home, at Sillery, near Quebec, was the erection of an aviary, for the friends of his youth, the birds of Canada, and an ample museum for the preservation, by the art of the taxidermist, of specimens of the Canadian *avifauna*.

It may not be out of place to follow this indefatigable writer, in his rather extended literary career.

Struck, in 1861, with the lack of any French work to guide Canadian youth attracted to the study of bird life, Mr. LeMoine published that year, in two volumes, a manual on popular ornithology; and, in order to allure the student to this healthy and delightful pursuit, he imparted to those volumes a strong, fragrant literary aroma. Whether it was due to the novelty of the subject or to the contents of the work, it disappeared from the publisher in less than one year. In 1862 he helped on a literary *confrère* in a small literary venture; Mr. LeMoine contributing an interesting article, under the caption "*The Legendary Lore of the St. Lawrence*". The next year, with the view of promoting the study of Canadian annals, he began his valuable series which ran over three years, under the well-remembered name of *Maple Leaves*: the first series was devoted to general subjects, legends and quaint old customs; the second, to rescuing reliable records of Canadian battle-fields and siege narratives; the third depicted chiefly the old manners and scenery round Quebec. That year, he found time during his leisure moments to write, for *l'Opinion Publique*, a short French essay on Sir Walter Scott, as poet, novelist, historian; also a lengthy review of the arctic explorations of Franklin, McClure, Kane, McClintock, and also published a treatise on the river and deep sea fisheries of Canada, which elicited warm encomiums from the French press.

In 1865, General McLellan, having alluded disparagingly, in a speech he made, to the memory of Montcalm, for his supposed approval of the Fort George massacre in 1757, Mr. LeMoine took up the cudgels for his favourite hero and confuted by Bancroft's, the Abbe Piquet's narrative and by others, the statement made by the luckless warrior of Bull Run renown: this booklet, intitled *La Mémoire de Montcalm Vengée*, met with hearty recognition in Canada and in France.

Various effusions of an historical character fell from the writer's prolific and versatile pen, in 1870, in *Stewart's Quarterly Magazine*, *New Monthly Magazine*, *Belford's Review*, *Forest and Stream* and *La Revue Canadienne*. In 1873, a selection of his best Canadian sketches was published, under the old familiar name of *Maple Leaves*, new series. The same year also ushered in his valuable French work *l'Album du Touriste*.

Quebec Past and Present, edited in 1876, is probably, as a book of reference, the most useful historical volume ever put forth by the author. It embodies the whole history of the ancient capital from its foundation up to 1876; the edition is exhausted long since. Possibly, no literary composition of Mr. LeMoine, by the reminiscences it recalled to him, was more pleasant to indite than the publication, in 1878, under the title of *Chronicles of the St. Lawrence*, of his multifarious excursions to the kingdom of herring and cod, on the Gaspé coast.

The bulky volume of 550 pages, styled *Picturesque Quebec* from the mass of quaint information disseminated through its pages about the old city's streets, squares, eminent in-