

**THE LATE DR. DE SOLA.**

In the death of the Rev. Dr. DeSola, which occurred in New York on Monday evening, the Hebrew community of Montreal sustain a loss scarcely greater than that which will be experienced by all classes of our citizens. For thirty-five years past, Dr. DeSola has been identified with all movements tending to promote the moral and intellectual welfare of our people, has occupied a distinguished position in the principal universities of the Dominion, and has achieved for himself a reputation extending over the whole continent, and reaching the scholars of many countries. He was born at London, Eng., on September 18th, 1827, being descended from an ancient Spanish-Jewish family. His father, the Rev. David Aaron DeSola, enjoyed a high reputation as a divine and scholar, and his ancestors present a long line of illustrious names celebrated as scholars, physicians and statesmen. Young DeSola received a careful education, under paternal supervision. After having finished his academical studies, he took to Hebrew, literature and theology. Diligence and perseverance soon produced the results which always attend them. Before reaching manhood, Mr. DeSola was urged by many who recognized his worth to apply for a ministerial office in his native city. But a wider sphere of action had been opened for him in the New World. In 1847 he responded to a call from the Portuguese Hebrew congregation of this city. Here began Dr. DeSola's steadfast labors. In the first year of his residence in this city he lectured before the Mercantile Library Association, on the "History of the Jews of England," and that his efforts were duly appreciated is evidenced by his having been requested to address the same society, as well as the Mechanics' Institute, every succeeding winter, during which a course of lectures was given, besides often lecturing for the Sommerville course. The Doctor was chosen President of the Natural History Society some years ago, and in that capacity received Prince Arthur, when he visited that institution. Before this organization he delivered very interesting lectures on Jewish history, and on the zoology, cosmogony and botany of the Scriptures. In a short space of



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time Dr. DeSola's talents brought him out so prominently that in 1848 he was appointed Professor of Hebrew and Semitic literature in McGill College. The duties attached to that honorable office he discharged with commendable zeal. Shortly after this the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on him, and he was selected to address the graduates on behalf of the faculty, at one of the commencements. Professor DeSola labored for the welfare of his brethren as a minister, but more particularly as a writer. Many articles from his pen have graced the columns of the secular and Jewish press, and the drift thereof has been the exaltation of the religion of Israel, and the exposing to view of the grand literature of his people. Of the Professor's writings we may mention: "Notes on the Jews of Persia," "Commentary on Samuel Hannazid's Introduction to the Talmud," "Peristol's Cosmography," "Life Shabethai Tsavi," "History of the Jews of Poland," "History of the Jews of France," "Critical Consideration of the Dietary Laws of the Hebrews," "Life of Saaidia Gaon," and numerous other works. Dr. DeSola was in close literary relations with the Rev. Isaac Leeser, and purchased from the latter's executors the plates of his works, and re-issued several of these, principally the several Forms of Prayer and Leeser's Translation of the Old Testament. Recently the Doctor published a revised translation of the entire Jewish form of prayers in six volumes, dedicated to Sir Moses Montefiore, Bart. In addition to all this, Dr. DeSola has constantly identified himself with educational and charitable associations. On the 9th of January, 1872, Professor DeSola was invited to open the United States Congress with prayer, he being the first foreign clergyman ever invited to invoke the divine blessing within the halls of the Capitol. His outpourings elicited favorable comments by reason of their broad and humanitarian character. Of late years the doctor's health has been failing, but a trip to Europe temporarily restored him. He was on a visit to his sister in New York when suddenly attacked by the illness which proved fatal. He leaves a wife and six children to mourn his loss.



RUINED MILL, NEAR QUEBEC.—FROM A SKETCH BY M. A. GENEST.