

THE INAUGURATION

ON the evening of the ninth of April, 1896, a large gathering of the more prominent citizens of Montreal came together, within the walls of the Château de Ramezay, to celebrate the inauguration of a historical picture gallery, a museum of Canadian antiquities and a public library. It is no exaggeration to state that the people were more than surprised at the many precious relics their eyes beheld. No one expected to see such a transformation in a building which, a few months previous, had been filled with all manner of debris, appearing, in fact, more like a ruin ready for demolition. Its days seemed numbered and an early date was set by many for its total disappearance. ❦ ❦ ❦

However there prevailed in the community a strong desire to repair this old French mansion and open it up, for the inspection of strangers as well as for the rising generation at home, as a rare old souvenir of the past. But through what medium was this end to be attained? What organisation, so filled with unselfish motives, could be found to undertake this truly patriotic task? ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦

This unuttered although general desire was naturally taken up by the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society which, after much trouble, has, for the present at least, secured the coveted possession of the Château.

The whole of the building, brilliantly lighted, was thrown open to a delighted throng, made up, for the most part, of these who had never visited it and to