

MR. SHERIFF LEBLANC.

Charles André Leblanc, whose portrait we present this week to our readers, was born in Montreal, on the 18th August 1816. He was partly educated at the Montreal College, situated in College Street which takes its name from that institution, the only college in the city at that time. During his stay there, the Superiors were the RR. Quiblier and Belle, both from the Seminary of St. Sulpice, Paris. On leaving college he studied law five years in the *étude* of Mr. Pierre Moreau, Q. C. Called to the Bar in 1838, he was taken into partnership by the latter gentleman, and subsequently joined to himself as a partner the late Francis Cassidy, Esq., Q. C., who had studied law under the firm of Moreau and Leblanc, and who remained his partner for 25 years. Like most young men of the time, he was implicated in the troubles of 1837, and was one of the first six imprisoned, he being one of the *Prix de la Liberté*. He remained in durance vile at the Montreal Gaol for five months, the cell he occupied being at present the room of the governor of the gaol. Among those who shared his College life were Sir George E. Cartier, between whom and Mr. Leblanc there sprung up a friendship to which death alone put a termination. Judges Berthelot, Beaudry, McKay, Mgr. Bacon, Bishop of Portland, Revd. Jos. Toupin, of Rivière des Prairies, Revd. Picard of the Seminary, Revd. Leclaire of Stanbridge, Messrs. Rouer Roy, De Boucherville and many others of Canadian fame. Mr. Leblanc practised at the Bar during a period of thirty-five years, his practice being of the largest. On the 28th June 1867, he was made a Queen's Counsel, and appointed Sheriff for the District of Montreal in 1872. For twelve years he was a member of the Council of the Bar, and was appointed Bâtonnier about twelve years ago. Besides these honours, Mr. Leblanc has been appointed by and on behalf of the Government, Director of the Northern Colonization Railway. He is also President of the Reformatory Institutions to which he has given a great deal of his time with his late friend, Mr. Olivier Berthelot. Mr. Leblanc is also, since the year 1867, a member of the Bureau de l'Instruction Publique, (Council of Public Instruction) of Quebec and was for two years President of the St. Jean Baptiste Society.

EUGENIE.

Col. Ferney, of Philadelphia, writes: Camden House, the residence of her Majesty, was chosen after she had landed at Ryde, in the Isle of Wight, on the ninth of September, 1870, having escaped from Paris in the midst of the revolution on the fourth of the same month. Her passage over the Channel was in itself a romance. The mansion is of three stories, built of dark stone, beautifully mixed with white, with two wings, and is handsomely located in a fine park. We were conducted from the anteroom into the drawing room by a chamberlain, where the Empress received us, and I was immediately impressed by her exceeding grace and beauty. Time has dealt very gently with her. Born May 5, 1826, she is now in her fiftieth year, but does not look forty, and she seemed in better health and more a brighter aspect than when I saw her in the Paris Palace of Industry on the second of July 1867, when the Emperor Napoleon distributed the prizes to the successful competitors at the Universal Exposition of that year. Dressed in deep mourning, without the slightest ornament, and speaking English perfectly, she opened the conversation and asked questions without reserve in regard to our International Centennial Exhibition. I described the extent of Fairmount Park, the several groups of buildings now in course of construction, the amount of money raised, the action of the National Government, and the visit of the President of the United States. Here she quietly interrupted me by stating that she had read with great pleasure the statement of his visit, and of his satisfaction at the progress of the work. She seemed to be anxious to know whether any of the French princes had been invited, and when I told her Majesty that the President of the United States had simply invited existing governments, and that none of the royal princes of any country had been especially asked, she seemed to be relieved. To the question whether I thought the Prince Imperial

would be well received, I ventured to express the opinion that his welcome would be most cordial, and that our people held the fact in grateful remembrance that to the statesmanship and liberality of the first Napoleon we are indebted for the acquisition of the valuable territory of Louisiana, and that this, together with the recollection of French sympathy during our struggle for independence, was one of the most cherished of our national reminiscences. I ran over a list of the governments that had made preparations to be present next year, and when I stated that the only exception was Russia, she was very anxious to know the reason, which I attempted cautiously to explain, expressing the belief that I had no doubt when Mr. Boker reached St. Petersburg, the Russian Emperor would gladly enroll his country among the rest. Alluding to the subject of free trade, which she said she did not feel herself competent to discuss, she gracefully intimated that she thought some provisions should

circumstance. We cannot tell what may transpire to-day or two-morrow, or a few months hence"—evidently referring to political contingencies.

MRS. REED AND MRS. READE.

A correspondent of the Chicago *Inter-Ocean* writes thus of Mrs. Reed (Mlle. Ridenti), who recently made her debut in this country with the Kellogg Troupe as *Maritana*: Ah! if sorrow and tears made prima donnas, how full of singers the world would be! I wonder if that dark-eyed *Maritana*, singing for the first time in her native land last week, did not see the gorgeous theatre shrink to a single white-walled room, and the fashionable audience change to a group of sweet-faced nuns and wondering-eyed girls! Or could she through the thunders of the orchestra catch the memory of a dimly lighted chapel, its pure

she set to work to save enough money out of her small earnings to go to Italy and get a musical education. If it were not for the spirit underlying her effort it would have been laughable; unless Topeka music teachers fare better than their comrades elsewhere. She would probably have had to wait till her voice withered up in her; but fate was propitious, and she married a brave young army officer, whom she inspired with her own ambition. Go abroad she would, she said, and go abroad she should, he said; and go abroad she did, the day after she was married, and there she has been for three years. Wasn't that a wedding tour? I do not know which of the two is more heroic, the wife pursuing sternly her vocation in Italy or the husband in America watching her with warm sympathy. But this I do know, that neither looks upon the separation as a sacrifice to greedy ambition, but to genuine, true love of the art, and perhaps it is this sincere devotion that sustains them. Already the dawn of great success has broken upon her. Italian musical journals praise her liberally and recognize extraordinary merit in her voice, which they characterize as exquisitely pure and sweet. May white omens attend her, and when Mrs. Minnie Bealls Reade comes home to America the West will surely be proud to think that in her groves was this new nightingale nursed.

ANNIE THOMAS.

A London correspondent, writing of a well-known novelist, says: In person, Annie Thomas is not now and never could have been handsome, but she has a bright, animated face, elegant manners, in which there is not a shade of affectation, is very witty and vivacious, has a pleasant, musical voice, and is a very good conversationalist, qualities which serve her in beauty's stead. In her younger days she was much flattered and courted in society, and her friends predicted that she would make what the world calls a brilliant match. They were not a little surprised, however, when, during a summer visit to the beautiful shire of Devon, she married a young country curate with a small salary. Her marriage was a happy one, but she had become so wedded to the gay world of London, that the tame, dull, and even tenor of life at a country parsonage soon became unendurable to her, and the people she was thrown among differed from her widely in thought, feeling, and habits of life; at length, as she sometimes laughingly remarks, to save herself from insanity, she took to horse-back riding, attended most of the fox hunts, and used to follow the hounds over moor and mountain for miles. The staid, sober people in the neighborhood were very much shocked at the thought of a parson's wife riding at fox hunts, and took but little pains to conceal their indignation. It was under these circumstances that one of her most popular novels, "The Old Love again"—which appeared in *Harper's Monthly* a few years since—was written. In it she sets forth the various petty annoyances to which she was subjected by her narrow-minded neighbors, and her yearnings for freedom and congenial society. For some years past she has resided in Maid's Vale, one of the pleasantest suburbs of London, and where the church of which her husband is assistant rector is also situated. She has four lovely children.

and, though she is not a very careful writer, she is a very diligent one. She regards novel-writing as a duty no less than a pleasure, and in defence of her reckless, unfinished style she pleads the exigencies of her position. I have heard it stated that her manuscript is frequently bundled up and sent to the printer without any revision or correction whatsoever—in her own words, "without waiting for the ink to dry." She is still very fond of society, and occasionally gives very pleasant reunions, which are attended by many of the well-known literary men and women of the metropolis.

A STORY is going the round to the effect that an alderman was asked by a lady during the course of a recent banquet at the Mansion House, the meaning of the letters S. P. Q. R., which appeared on the standards borne by some soldiers in a picture. The alderman replied, with much promptitude, "that he believed they stood for small profits and quick returns."

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C. A. LEBLANC, Esq., Q. C., SHERIFF OF MONTREAL.

be made by which the delicate fabrics of France might have a partial drawback, when sold in America, an account of the necessary deterioration of the goods from exposure in a sea voyage, and the changes constantly taking place in fashionable attire. The Prince Imperial was with his battery at the English military camp at Aldershot, and she regretted that he was not present, in order that he might participate in the conversation. Before retiring I expressed the hope that her Majesty would send us some token of the interest she manifested in the exhibition, to which she responded by saying: "Ah! what have I to send? What can I send? I am here simply the tenant of another's house. All you see about me I have no control over." But I am not without hope that the suggestion will bear good fruit; and, on reviewing the request that she might consent to let her son come to America next year, she said: "I fear that is impossible. I should like to be present in Philadelphia. I have always felt the greatest interest in the United States, but we are the creatures of

white altar, the surpliced priest, the bowed heads, and her own sweet, fresh voice soaring above the clouds of incense and the murmur of prayer? Then she was the darling of fortune, now she is a worker in a scantily clothed field. The story of the intervening years is hers, not the public's, for real sorrow is too sacred to be told in the market place, even though its recital would win her ready sympathy. Now there is another Mrs. Reade in Italy, another American studying for the lyric stage, whom every promise of success attends. And when its fulfillment comes there will be plenty to think it happened easily. Better for her that it does not, probably, for there is a discipline in those years of hard work that cultivates more than the voice and makes her a brave woman as well as a fine singer. She is a Western girl, and deserves a niche in the *Inter-Ocean*. She was a music teacher in Topeka, Kan., and after singing in some concerts there made up her mind to study for the stage. Making her mind up was easy enough. That cost nothing; but going abroad did. So