

The  
**Canadian Antiquarian**  
and Numismatic Journal

Published by the  
Numismatic and Antiquarian Society  
of Montreal



Third Series.

Vol. I.

Montreal  
**Alphonse R. Pelletier**  
Printer to the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society

1898

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Number 1.

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The

# Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Journal

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of Montreal



**Alphonse R. Pelletier**

Printer to the Numismatic and Antiquarian

36 St. Lawrence Street

Montreal



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to Editors to be addressed to the Chateau de Ramezay.

1705

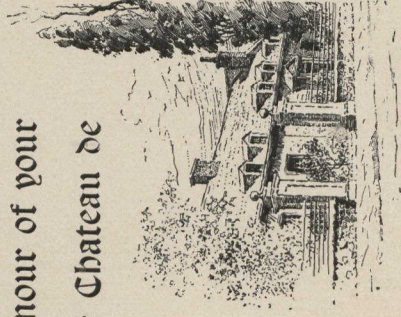


1896

**T**HE President

and Members of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal request the honour of your presence at the Inauguration of the Chateau de

Ramezay Museum and Library, on Thursday Evening, the ninth of April, 1896, at eight o'clock.





THE  
CANADIAN ANTIQUARIAN  
AND NUMISMATIC JOURNAL



EDITORIAL

**T**HREE years ago, owing to uncontrollable circumstances, the publication of the "Canadian Antiquarian" was suspended. Yet, while this was greatly regretted by those interested in the grand work it was doing, they never lost heart, and now, through their persevering efforts it has again, phoenix-like, come to life to continue, we trust, its work through long years of prosperity. ❁ ❁

The study of our past, with all its historic glory, its legends and its folk-lore, has become a fascinating one to our citizens inducing many to give to this branch of learning more of their leisure than hitherto. Both the French and English people of Canada are becoming more devoted to the land of their birth or of their adoption, and, with this growth, there is a deeper desire to delve into its history, short through



it be, yet so replete with deeds of sacrifice and valor, many of which remain unpublished or are altogether forgotten. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

Since the last appearance of this publication an important step in advance has marked the history of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society. This is, its removal to its new quarters in the Château de Ramezay ; where, through the efforts of its members, has been formed a historical picture gallery, and museum of Canadian antiquities open free to all, already highly appreciated by the public. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

In the attainment of this much desired object and the preservation of the museum within the walls of this venerable mansion Montreal can claim an institution destined, in this direction, to place her not only side by side with, but in advance of her sisters of equal importance on this continent. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

Henceforth our main object, calling forth the most concentrated efforts, will be the fostering of the growth and conserving the benefits of this much needed institution. We would therefore, at its beginning, solicit a full meed of sympathy and encouragement at the hands of our enlightened people. And in this connection it may be well to observe that the Society owes much of the success it has already attained to the liberality of several of our large minded citizens.

As heretofore it will be the endeavor of this Journal to be a medium devoted to seeking after the truth in Canadian historical and antiquarian studies and numismatic research. Students, we confidently hope, will find, from time to time, in these pages many utterances to interest and instruct. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀



## THE INAUGURATION

**O**N 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

whom its whole internal appearance was a revelation. The quaint rooms, with walls adorned with portraits of old *chevaliers* and those famous in our history, as the gay company passed and repassed, enlivened by the strains of sweet music, delighted all who had the good fortune of participating in the scene. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

After allowing the guests ample time to inspect all parts of the building, with the rare contents of the cases and array of portraits and pictures covering the walls of the Elgin gallery and other apartments, the Hon. Justice Baby, the president of the Society, took the chair, at the same time calling to his side His Worship Mayor R. Wilson-Smith, Sir William Dawson, the Rev. Abbé Verreau, principal of Jacques Cartier Normal School, George Hague, L. H. Fréchette, laureate, the Rev. J. Edgar Hill and many others. ❀ ❀ ❀

The audience having been called to attention the president delivered the following inaugural address.

*Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen :* ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

It is with a deep sense of satisfaction, as you may well understand, that the Society, through its presiding officer, heartily welcomes you this evening to this grand old maison, so truly perfumed with the souvenirs of the past. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

When the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society first suggested the project of celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of Montreal three things were proposed in order to shed a more lasting lustre on so noteworthy an event. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

First, the erecting of a monument to the memory of Chomedey de Maisonneuve, the founder of our city.



anxious to save from impending destruction. Long and arduous was the task before us, but by dint of persistent courage and energy it was saved. Through the generosity of the mayor and aldermen we were given possession of this venerable building which has witnessed so many memorable scenes in Canadian history and within which have met and deliberated so many prominent personages of the past, whose fame has come down to us. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

Being desirous of keeping faith with those who so generously and disinterestedly seconded our efforts we, at once, set determinedly to work, with the limited means at our disposal, until the projected national picture gallery and museum with a public library and reading room attached took tangible shape, as you can well judge for yourselves this evening. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

Built in the beginning of the eighteenth century this relic of the past is one of Montreal's most interesting landmarks. Where then could there be found a more fitting place to carry out our project? No city on this continent, with the exception perhaps of Boston and Philadelphia, can boast the possession of a building of such a character and one with such a pedigree. It is in fact a grand and precious reliquary in which to preserve our national relics. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

Through the generosity of warm hearted friends, we have been able to impart life and animation to these cold and lifeless walls; all honor to these gentlemen to whom we tender our hearty thanks. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

Our library, although still in its inception, contains already about eight thousand volumes; not counting a large number of manuscripts, some of the highest



value, others, which in the course of time, will become equally so : all this augurs well for the future. While in no way excluding works of art and literature the books to be found on our shelves bear mainly on history, science and antiquarian reserch. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

When the British Association for the Advancement of Science met in Montreal, many were the expressions of surprise and disappointment uttered by its distinguished members, because no institution of the kind was to be found in such an important centre as ours. With many citizens we felt that this deep void in the community must needs be filled and, as you will, no doubt, admit, our efforts have, in some measure, been successful. We are, at least, on the road leading to success. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

The gallery of historical pictures, upon which you have looked with so much pleasure, must, I am sure, have taken you by surprise. Few if any could have believed that, in such a short time, so much could have been accomplished, that such a collection containing, as it does, so many portraits of our ancestors as well as of the most prominent men under both French and English rule, could have been got together.

And what shall I say regarding the relics of our past ? There before us is the Louisbourg bell, which, through the courageous efforts of the well known writer, Miss Barry (Françoise), has been brought here from the city by the sea ; in a corner stand the two crosses which surmounted respectively the church and convent of the Recollets before they were razed to the ground by the modern iconoclast ; in another corner is the weather vane of old St. Gabriel's, which

in a way might be called the cradle of the English speaking community of Montreal ; there is an antiquated pair of scales, dated 1685, which, in the early days of the colony, the Jesuit Fathers had placed at the disposal of their *Censitaires* in their seignory of Cap de la Magdeleine and they are the more historic on account of having been found in that well known structure, still standing, called "La Friponne" which bring to mind the treasonable acts of the disreputable bureaucracy that disgraced the last decade of the old regime ; in the glass cases may be seen accoutrements and small arms which belonged to some of the formost of our citizens who defended their country against assault in 1775 and 1812; they are the kind of weapons that were used both in attack and defense during the ten years war ; and Indian implements there are from all over the Dominion — from the shores of the Atlantic to the Pacific slope ; parchments too, and other documents in the quaint old writing of the time, which settle disputed points in our history over which the student has struggled for years ; among these are the original letters patent erecting the Barony of Longueuil ; in the shelves is a collection of books which show, by their dates, that they were the first printed in this country emanating, as they do from the first printing press introduced as a necessary accompaniment of the liberty of thought and action which the British régime brought to us ; there are also rare portraits and prints of persons and things ; Canadian curios and bric-à-brac of local interest, familiar perhaps to us all, but highly interesting to strangers ; a collection of coins and medals many of them rare and valu-

able; here too is the valuable cross of the military order of St. Louis which decorated the breast of the last of the de Vaudreuils, governor of *La Nouvelle France* and previously of Montreal, this, let me state *en passant*, is the esteemed gift of the Countess of Clermont-Tonnerre, one of his descendants; and, last of all, is the unique gold medal presented by the Prince Regent to the hero of Châteauguay. ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦

After this hurried recapitulation you will see that we have some reason to be proud of our work, undertaken, as it has been, solely for the public good and the honor of our city. Now let me ask you to examine this question and, judging for yourselves, before answering let this judgment be true and candid. If happily it should prove favorable it will be an incentive to the Society to continue its efforts in this direction assisted by your generous gifts. ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦

A moment ago I referred to the surprise expressed by a distinguished body of strangers because no truly public library was to be found here. Now allow me, ladies and gentlemen, to continue in the same strain on the lack of a picture gallery and museum in this city. It will readily be admitted that Montreal is the foremost and most beautiful city of its size on the continent; not only on account of the correct style of its architecture, the solidity of its buildings, public and private, the strength and extent of its financial, commercial and manufacturing enterprises but also on account of the great educational, charitable, scientific and other institutions which the generosity and philanthropy of its citizens have founded and maintained.

But one institution was wanting to complete this

brilliant array ; and, while people on all hands, wondered they were unable to account for its absence — that is one of the character and importance of that which you have come together to inaugurate this evening. Everywhere, whenever possible, sometimes at considerable sacrifice on the part of corporations as well as private parties, such institutions have been created. And it speaks well for the intelligence, refinement and education reached by the community where one is to be found. However, I am sorry to say, that, up to this time, our good city possessed nothing of the kind, to the astonishment. let me repeat, of strangers who, while filled with admiration for the progress and prosperity evident on all sides, could not help expressing their surprise when told that no antiquarian museum existed in the metropolis of the Dominion.

To-day we have turned over a new leaf and from this time out, Montreal will possess its historical picture gallery and museum open free to all ; to the old as a reminder of the past ; to the young as a means of education. Here will be religiously preserved, for the enlightenment of posterity, our historical relics and heir-looms irrespective of their source. Our only aim is the preservation of the history of Ville-Marie and her gifted and valorous sons from her foundation down to our own times. An aim so sacred cannot but be continued by our successors, as has been done in all civilized countries, and claim the approbation, not only of those who hear me, but of those who hold dear the good name of Montreal. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

Of course this is only a beginning, much still remaining to be done to make this institution all it



should be, but we are on the right road leading to this much desired goal. In order then to make this Château, of which so many American cities are so envious, what it should be, we have to look to the generosity of the public ; and I am sure that such of our citizens as, through that full measure of prosperity with which they have been blessed, can so do, will not forget, in their patriotic desire to elevate and educate the community, to come to the assistance of this most hopeful institution. Yes, let us from this time out, rejoice in the continued liberality of our benefactors.

It is now with much pleasure that I call upon His Worship the Mayor to declare this picture gallery, museum and library duly opened. ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦

The Mayor then came forward and in the most complimentary terms eulogized the good work done by the Society at the same time assuring its members of the sincerest sympathy, promising them at all times his most hearty support and concluded an enthusiastic address by stating that he " had great pleasure in declaring this institution duly opened. " ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦

Next came the presentation of the historic Louisbourg bell, brought all the way from Halifax through the efforts of Miss Barry better known by her *nom de plume*, " Françoise." The presentation was made on her behalf by Mr. L. H. Fréchette, who, in choice and highly poetic language, vividly recalled the past and the settlement of old Acadie with its sunshine and gloom. We regret not to be able to place the full text of this master-piece of oratory before our readers. As the history of this bell is well known we see no reason for reproducing it here. ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦

Hon. Justice Baby, on behalf of the Society, in appropriate language accepted the custodianship of the bell and promised that it would be cherished and handed down to coming generations. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

Sir Alexander Lacoste at some length strongly impressed upon the citizens the obligation devolving upon them in the completion and maintenance of the institution just opened, an institution of which they might well be proud. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

Sir William Dawson recognized with pleasure the good the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society was doing principally through the museum this gathering had come together to inaugurate. The people could not be too deeply impressed with the necessity of being fully acquainted with the history of the country. He suggested that the historical souvenirs of the city as well as of its environs should be arranged and exhibited in a tangible form so that the young might be able to learn and remember the chief points in our history. A local colour would no doubt thus be created which would enhance the interest of the collection housed by the Château. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

L'abbé Verreau spoke feelingly of the extraordinary and patriotic work that the Society had accomplished and that too in so short a time. He believed that the success thus attained, if properly helped, would nobly secure that which had been for so many years one of Montreal's greatest needs. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

Mr. George Hague expressed his gratification at being present at such an interesting ceremony. He was a great admirer of Canadian history and would like that it could be more universally known. An in-

stitution, like this was no doubt calculated to do very much in this direction. It is a well known fact that many learned more from object lessons through the eye than from the books they read. He congratulated the Society on its success thus far and hoped the citizens of Montreal would encourage its endeavor. ❀ ❀

The last speaker, the Rev. J. Edgar Hill, referred in complimentary terms to what the Society had done for the people. This institution, he was most happy to learn, rested on the broad basis of Canadian history in which study it was able to help in many ways. It was neither French nor English but thoroughly Canadian and thus common to us all, as citizens of this wealthy city. It should be encouraged for it deserved a full meed of encouragement. He expressed his regret that the English-speaking members of the community did not know more of their brethren of French origin and their littérateurs. This was to be deplored for many reasons. He had no doubt that the Château, over and above all that could be spoken of it, situated as it was between the east and the west, would become a point of union between the races. Could this object be attained it would undoubtedly add to its ultimate success. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

Thus was concluded one of the most notable fêtes which this metropolis has ever witnessed, and its memory will long be cherished by those who had the good fortune of participating in it. And the thanks of the Society are due and are hereby tendered to all who, by their presence or otherwise, assisted in this memorable celebration. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

## THE EARL OF ABERDEEN'S VISIT

**H**IS Excellency having, through pressure of public business, been prevented from taking part in the inaugural ceremonies, was pleased, on his first subsequent visit to Montreal, to intimate to the officers of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, that it would give him much pleasure to inspect the Château de Ramezay Museum and learn what progress had been made. Accordingly, in the course of the afternoon of the fifteenth of May, 1896, attended by several members of his suite, he entered the building and was conducted to a dais which had been prepared for the occasion in the Elgin Gallery. All the members of the Society, who had responded to the call to be on hand, were presented to His Excellency; among whom were the Hon. Justice Baby, the president, the Hon. Sir Alexander Lacoste, chief justice of the Court of Queen's Bench, the Hon. L. R. Masson and the Hon. L. J. Forget, senators, the Hon. Justice Wurtele and the Hon. Justice Archibald; Messrs. R. W. McLachlan, Henry Mott, L. W. Sicotte, W. D. Lighthall, Lucien Huot, A. T. Taylor, Alain C. Macdonald, Emanuel Ohlen, H. C. Nelson, C. A. Harwood and others. ❀

The following address was then presented by the president of the Society. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

*To the Right Honorable Sir John Campbell  
Hamilton Gordon, Earl of Aberdeen, Governor  
General of Canada, etc.* ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀



It is quite unnecessary for the members of this Society to assure Your Excellency of their most sincere gratification when they learned of this proposed visit this afternoon. We beg now to offer your Excellency our most hearty welcome to the Château de Ramezay, the history of which must, we are sure, be familiar to you. Your Excellency is no stranger within these walls, for many of the brilliant galaxy of Vice Roys sent by the mother country to Canada, such as Lord Dalhousie, Sir James Kempt, Lords Aylmer, Gosford, Durham and Sydenham, Sir Charles Bagot, Sir Charles Metcalfe and the Earl of Elgin, have held council in these halls; and the chronicles of their times are full of the events here witnessed by them. If time permitted a long and interesting page of Canadian history might be unfolded before Your Excellency. But, without proceeding further, let us state that during the many years, through which this Château has endured, no less than three distinct régimes have succeeded each other in its occupancy; namely the French, the English and the Americans or Continentals as they were then called. It will not appear strange, then, to Your Excellency, that such strenuous efforts have been made by the Society to save it from an impending destruction. The sole aim of its members was to preserve for posterity this our most cherished ancient monument and thereby bring honor and prestige to our city. By your presence here to day Your Excellency appears to approve the good work we are endeavoring to accomplish, and, consequently we feel thankful, My Lord, for this distinguished mark of approbation on your part. ❁ ❁ ❁

Having, through the liberality of the municipal authorities, secured possession of these premises, the next step taken was the formation of a Canadian historical picture gallery and museum. And where could a more suitable place be found for treasuring up our national antiquities and heir-looms which, through carelessness on the part of the owners, are becoming scarcer and scarcer every day. By dint of great sacrifice on the part of the members, and, through the generosity of a number of our fellow citizens, we made fair progress, such, indeed, as to encourage us to inaugurate this most commendable institution a few weeks ago, but from which interesting ceremony, to our great regret, Your Excellency was unavoidably absent. \* \* \* \* \*

While this beginning can only be claimed as a humble one, we sincerely trust that, by degrees, Montreal may soon be endowed with an institution worthy her proud position ; an institution, as has been acknowledged on all sides, too long wanting. Of course this cannot, for a moment, be compared with similar establishments, in the old world, so familiar to Your Excellency, we therefore to some extent fell it incumbent upon us to ask Your Excellency's pardon for taking up your valuable time with this visit.

Knowing and appreciating as we do the lively interest taken by Your Excellency and your worthy consort, the Countess of Aberdeen, in everything designed for the bettering of the material and intellectual condition of the people of the Dominion, in general and of the city of Montreal in particular, we cannot help calling your attention to the library and reading

room which have also been founded here through the benevolence of some liberal minded gentlemen.

In conclusion, My Lord, let us hope that this your most welcome visit to these historic halls, so filled with souvenirs of olden times, will be a signal, so to speak, for the renewal on all sides of generous and practical efforts to bring the Château de Ramezay museum to a successful consummation and thereby Your Excellency will have become our greatest benefactor.

To this address His Excellency made a very happy reply, in the course of which he most strongly advocated the claims of the Society to the help of the municipality, as well as the whole community, in the patriotic work they were so assiduously promoting.

After having been conducted through the picture gallery, museum, library and vaults, His Excellency expressed his high appreciation of all he had seen and cordially signed his name in the visitors' book. On taking leave he again expressed to the president and curator his delight at what he had seen ; adding that he hoped at another time to go more fully into the details of the many interesting things brought together by the Society. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀



General Montgomery Moore, of Halifax, on his return from Ottawa, where he had been sworn in as Administrator of the Dominion Government during the absence of Lord Aberdeen, paid a long visit to the Château and on leaving generously promised to help the picture gallery by filling up a gap in our series of portraits of the governors. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀







## THE CHATEAU DE RAMEZAY MEDALS



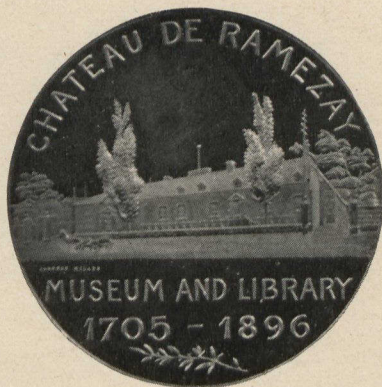
ALTHOUGH no official medals have been struck by the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society to commemorate its taking possession of the Château de Ramezay or the inauguration of the museum therein, several have been issued by private members. The earliest of these dates as far back as 1891, when the question of saving the Château had first begun to be agitated, It was struck for Mr. P. N. Breton to be sold during the exhibition held that year in Montreal, while he exhibited his numismatic collection. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

1 *Obv.* A front view of the Château de Ramezay showing five poplars on the line of the street. *Exergue* CHATEAU DE RAMEZAY | BUILT 1704 | MONTREAL To the right, under the ground-work, is the medallist's name, C. TISON in small letters. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

*Rev.* EXHIBITION SOUVENIR MONTREAL 1891 A shield inscribed P. N. BRETON | NUMISMATIST | MONTREAL Under the shield are two sprigs of maple, size 33 millimeters ; white metal. ❀

Several errors in detail occur on the medal. The date should be 1705 ; and there should only be two poplars. They are much too tall and the branches too much spread. Tison, the medalist, has evidently shown some ability in the execution of the medal, but would be improved by a short training under a man of more experience. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀






INAUGURATION MEDALS.















THE TIFFIN MEDAL.




























THE DESROCHES MEDAL.






- 2 *Obv.* Same as that described above.       
*Rev.* Plain, size 33 millimeters ; white metal.

When the date of the inauguration was definitely settled, Mr. A. Desroches obtained permission from the Society to strike a medal, commemorative of the occasion, to be sold at the Château. He made use of the old obverse of the Breton medal, therefore only a new reverse was engraved for the occasion.   

- 3 *Obv.* Same as number one.          
*Rev.* THE INAUGURATION OF THE CHATEAU DE RAMEZAY | LIBRARY & MUSEUM | 9th APRIL 1896  
 The seal of the Society, but with four books substituted for the coins in the left and right quarters, size 33 millimeters ; white metal. 

The change in the seal was altogether irregular and therefore unauthorized. It was simply designed by the issuer to convey the idea of inaugurating the library.                   

In a foregoing article, mention is made of a medal given to his guests by Mr. H. J. Tiffin. This was intended mainly to inaugurate a library which he had presented to the Society for the use of the citizens. To be, in fact, a public library sustained by the municipal authorities of Montreal.      

- 4 *Obv.* CIVIC LIBRARY INAUGURATED BY H. J. TIFFIN  
 1896. After the date is a small monogram G D  
 Bust of Mr. Tiffin to the right.       
*Rev.* CHATEAU DE RAMEZAY A front view of  
 the Château with two poplar trees. *Exergue*  
 MUSEUM AND LIBRARY | 1705-1896 a sprig of laurel

under the dates. To the left, under the ground work, is the artist's name JOHNSON MILANO in small letters, size 50 millimeters ; bronze. ❀ ❀

Stefano Johnson is medallist to the Italian government having struck the medals given to the soldiers who took part in the Russian and Austrian wars. The view of the Château is not by any means a true one. The building appears too long and part of the railing to the left is wanting. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

5 *Obv.* Same as the last. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

*Rev.* Similar to last but word RAMSY occurs in place of "Ramezay," size 50 millimeters ; white metal, aluminium and bronze. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

This was struck first and when the error was noticed, the change made. About twenty specimens in all were struck in the three different metals. ❀ ❀



## “ LE ROCHER MOHAWK ”

PAR LUCIEN HUOT



**E**N face de Burlington et s'élançant fièrement du fond des eaux profondes du lac Champlain, il existe un rocher solitaire et à l'aspect mystérieux qui porte le nom de "Rocher Mohawk." Son sommet n'a pas assez de surface pour permettre d'y construire un hôtel ou une résidence, il serait toutefois possible d'y fixer un kiosque et d'y attirer un grand nombre de visiteurs et de canotiers pendant les soirées calmes de l'été, mais jusqu'à présent la spéculation l'a respecté, il a échappé à l'esprit d'entreprise des américains, et il a conservé la fière indépendance du temps de ses premiers maîtres, les iroquois. Placé à l'entrée de la grande baie de Burlington, il est bien un peu la terreur des navigateurs attardés à l'approche de l'orage, alors que sa cime se confond avec celles des vagues, mais en temps calme il est facile de l'escalader et nul point du lac ne peut offrir à la vue un panorama aussi grandiose. D'un côté les montagnes à pentes douces et verdoyantes qui ont valu son nom à l'état qui nous avoisine, et de l'autre les pics des Adirondacks qui se multiplient à perte de vue pour former un encadrement digne du plus beau lac d'Amérique. Les eaux de ce lac sont parsemées d'îles de toutes grandeurs vers lesquelles se dirigent des pointes de rochers de toutes formes, entre lesquelles sont creusées des baies profondes qui font les délices des canotiers. Toutefois, autour du "Rocher Mohawk," on dirait que la

nature, saisie de respect ou de terreur, s'est reculée pour lui permettre de veiller à la fois sur l'étendue depuis le fond de la baie de Plattsburgh, entre l'île Valcour et l'île La Mothe, jusqu'à la pointe à la Chevelure et même celle de Carillon. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

A la vérité il fallait de l'espace pour les luttes gigantesques dont ces eaux furent le théâtre, d'abord dans le duel à mort entre l'Angleterre et la France pour la possession d'un continent, et plus tard, dans la lutte héroïque des américains pour la conquête de la liberté. Au nord du lac, Arnold à l'île Valcour, et MacDonough dans la baie de Plattsburgh, le premier vaincu jusqu'au dernier de ses vaisseaux et presque de ses soldats, le second vainqueur des armes anglaises, y ont livré les deux batailles navales les plus sanglantes de la guerre de l'Indépendance et de celle de 1812. Le 11 octobre 1776, la flotte d'Arnold était anéantie par Carleton pendant que le 11 septembre 1814, MacDonough mettait en déroute la flotte anglaise commandée par Downie. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

Depuis un siècle déjà on s'y battait avec acharnement, et c'est à la pointe de Carillon (appelé aujourd'hui Ticondéroga) au sud du lac, que les soldats de Montcalm remportaient la plus belle des victoires des armes françaises en Amérique ; c'était là d'ailleurs, à Carillon même, si on en croit la tradition citée par certains auteurs, entr'autres par W. H. Murray, que les sauvages avaient reçu leur baptême de feu. Le sud du lac Champlain était autrefois le château fort des iroquois, ces féroces guerriers, ces maraudeurs infatigables qui étaient la terreur du Canada, longtemps avant le voyage de Jacques Cartier. Saisissant le



moindre prétexte, ils se glissaient dans leurs canots et, descendant le Richelieu, appelé autrefois la "rivière des Iroquois," ils venaient saccager les villages et massacrer les tribus plus paisibles qui se groupaient sur les rives du Saint-Laurent. C'est ainsi que la ville d'Hochelaga, visitée par Jacques Cartier, fut détruite et ses habitants massacrés ou dispersés. Comme on le sait, le prétexte fut la prétendue insulte infligée au fils d'un de leurs chefs par une jeune fille de la tribu d'Hochelaga. Au fond de toute mauvaise affaire il paraît qu'il y a toujours une femme quelconque.— Or cette fois l'aventure eut pour conséquence la destruction complète d'une belle ville fortifiée, bâtie précisément à l'endroit où est située la ville de Montréal. (Ces faits font le sujet d'une étude intitulée "The fall of Hochelaga" due à la plume de Horatio Hall, lue au Congrès d'anthropologie de l'Exposition Colombienne à Chicago en 1893, et publiée dans le numéro de mars 1894 du "Journal of American Folk-Lore.") Lorsque Champlain, environ un demi siècle après Cartier, visita cet endroit, depuis longtemps toute trace avait disparu, les cendres avaient été éjetées aux quatre vents et l'herbe de la prairie avait envahi les champs de culture qu'il eniouraient, de sorte qu'il ne restait plus rien de la fameuse "ville de l'île," ou d'Hochelaga, que le souvenir. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

L'on sait aussi que Champlain voulant asseoir d'une manière permanente la fondation de la colonie de Québec, n'avait d'autre parti à prendre que de s'attirer l'amitié des tribus au St-Laurent; mais en se faisant des amis il se créait des ennemis, et il ne fut pas longtemps sans le reconnaître. Manoeuvrant à

volonté *le tonnerre* sous forme d'une arquebuse de l'époque, Champlain était un guerrier redoutable et propre à imposer le respect même à des iroquois. Cédant aux pressantes sollicitations de ses nouveaux alliés qui vivaient dans la crainte continuelle de quelle qu'invasion de la part de leurs ennemis, il consentit à accompagner les premiers dans une expédition dirigée vers le fond du lac qui servait de retraite aux derniers. C'est ainsi qu'en 1609, confondu dans une bande armée, il faisait la découverte du beau lac destiné à perpétuer son nom et sa mémoire. Monument magnifique si jamais il en fut un, érigé par la nature à la mémoire d'un homme, digne du nom qu'il porte, et bien propre à consoler les habitants de ce pays de n'avoir pas songé avant aujourd'hui à lui en ériger un autre. Ce dut être pour le brave Champlain un jour d'émotion que le 3 juillet 1609, lorsqu'il lui fut donné pour la première fois de contempler les îles pittoresques, les promontoires hardis et les baies tranquilles dont son contour est frangé et qui en font un lac d'une beauté unique au monde. Il dut explorer à loisir sa nouvelle conquête, car ses compagnons s'avançaient avec prudence, et ce ne fut que le 28 du même mois qu'ils franchissaient la limite du territoire ennemi et se trouvaient en face d'une armée redoutable qui les attendait de pied ferme, bien décidée à faire payer cher la témérité de ces visiteurs audacieux. A moins d'être ami, et d'en avoir donné des preuves, on ne franchissait pas impunément le rocher qui servait de borne au territoire iroquois, celui qu'on appelle encore aujourd'hui le "Rocher Mohawk." Il fallait à Champlain une assez forte dose

de sang-froid pour s'aventurer ainsi avec des compagnons peu civilisés dans un pays si redoutable. Le "Rocher Mohawk" était la borne qui indiquait la limite du pays ennemi de toutes les autres tribus, lequel pays comprenait la fameuse alliance des cinq nations. Il était sans doute connu dans toute l'Amérique du Nord comme un point infranchissable, car depuis longtemps les iroquois parcouraient en vainqueurs tous les pays environnants. Ce jour-là, les choses changèrent, et le coup de feu tiré par Champlain qui abattit trois chefs iroquois mit pour la première fois la crainte et la confusion dans leurs rangs. Ce coup de feu fut le signal qui, se répercutant de colline en colline, annonçait l'introduction de la civilisation chrétienne dans l'Amérique du Nord. Ce fut à la vérité le premier coup de feu tiré par un européen, par un chrétien, sur les sauvages d'Amérique ; mais il faut admettre que les chrétiens n'étaient pas libres d'éviter la guerre, et qu'il leur fallait à tout prix veiller à la sécurité de leurs alliés. Ce coup de feu eut du retentissement, et il fait même encore aujourd'hui vibrer l'écho des montagnes, si l'on en juge par la plume de certains publicistes américains, J. Armory, Knox, Adirondack Murray et même le juge Palmer.

On fait un crime à Champlain de ce qui fut considéré alors comme un acte de bravoure, accompli dans le but de protéger les autres tribus plus pacifiques, réduites à l'impuissance de se protéger elles-mêmes contre ces maraudeurs infatigables et avides de sang. On fait remonter au drame du "Rocher Mohawk" la ligue des cinq nations, et on cherche à rendre Champlain, la nation française et même le catholicisme,

responsables des atrocités sans nombre commises dans la suite par ces hordes barbares. Ce fut, dit-on, non seulement un crime au point de vue humanitaire, mais aussi une grave erreur politique, dont la conséquence fut la perte pour la France, après cent cinquante années de lutte, de sa belle colonie d'Amérique : et le "Rocher Mohawk" est là pour en perpétuer le souvenir. L'Iroquois n'a jamais oublié l'humiliation infligée par Champlain, et n'a jamais perdu l'occasion de s'en venger sur ceux de sa race. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

Il est toujours facile de théoriser savamment sur les questions humanitaires. et même de prophétiser pour ceux qui nous ont précédé, lorsqu'on est à une distance respectable du danger, au point d'en être séparé par trois siècles. Si ces philosophes d'aujourd'hui se trouvaient en présence de ces hordes de tigres, de hyènes sous formes humaines, se contenteraient-ils de plaider leur défense en invoquant la cruauté de l'effusion du sang humain, devant un jury d'anthropophages ?

Le but de Champlain était d'implanter la civilisation européenne en Amérique et il a dignement rempli sa mission. Le vieux "Rocher Mohawk," est plus vieux sans doute qu'aucun des obélisques de Thèbes ou des monuments érigés par la main de l'homme pour rappeler les victoires sanglantes des peuples les plus civilisés de nos jours comme de ceux des civilisations précédentes ; ce vieux rocher avait assisté aussi à bien d'autres spectacles lorsqu'il vit la tache de sang faite par l'arme de Champlain. Et s'il fut témoin de faits d'armes que l'humanité sait si bien justifier, il fut, un jour, témoin du sacrifice de Père Jogues que seule l'humanité est impuissante à expliquer. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

Quoiqu'on en dise et à quelque nationalité qu'ils appartiennent, les noms de Champlain et Jogues sont inscrits en lettres d'or dans l'histoire des héros qui ont civilisé l'Amérique. Leur mémoire, comme les eaux profondes et limpides du lac Champlain, ne peut être troublée par les tempêtes qui peuvent se soulever autour du "Rocher Mohawk." ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦

❦ ❦ ❦ ❦

## A "SNAP-SHOT" AT OLD MONTREAL RASCO'S HOTEL

*"And then go to my inn, and dine."  
(Shakespeare.)*

**L**N former times the most fashionable hotel in the city was Rasco's. It still stands at the east end of St. Paul Street opposite Bonsecours Market, and was built on, or near, the site of the ancient palace of Mr. de Vaudreuil, Governor of Canada under the French régime. It contained two extensive suites of rooms, united by corridors at the eastern extremity. The hotel cost in construction £9,840, and the furnishing £3,300. It is said to have been opened May 1st 1836. The enterprising proprietor was formerly employed in the building next to the theatre, known by the name of the "British American Hotel," which was destroyed by fire on 24th April 1833. The building was subsequently the property of the heirs of the late Hon. C. S. Rodier.

Rasco was a little, fat, lively man, and after having made a considerable fortune, he retired to Italy, his native country, where he died. Looking at it to-day no one would realize its fallen splendor. ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦

In Forster's "Life of Charles Dickens," we find the following notice of this well-known hotel ; in one of the author's letters from Montreal he says :—

"The theatricals, I think I told you, I had been invited to play with the officers of the Coldstream Guards here, are *A Roland for an Oliver*, *Two o'clock in the Morning*, and either *The Young Widow*, or, *As deaf as a Post*. Ladies (unprofessional) are going to play for the first time."

His last letter, dated from "Rasco's Hotel, Montreal, Canada," 26th May 1842, described the private theatricals, and enclosed a bill of the play :—

"The play came off last night, the audience, between five and six hundred strong, were invited, as to a party, a regular table with refreshments being spread in the lobby and saloon. We had the band of the 23rd (one of the finest in the service), in the orchestra, the theatre was lighted with gas, the scenery was excellent, and the properties were all brought from private houses. Sir Charles Bagot, Sir Richard Jackson and their staffs were present ; and as the military portion of the audience were all in uniform, it was really a splendid scene. All the ladies were capital, and we had no wait or hitch for an instant. You may suppose this, when I tell you we began at eight, and had the curtain down at eleven."

"It is their custom here, to prevent heart-burnings, in a very heart-burning town, whenever they have played in private, to repeat the performances in public ; so on Saturday, (substituting, of course, real actresses for the ladies) we repeat the two first pieces to a paying audience, for the manager's benefit."





Another incident of Charles Dickens' visit was published a few years ago, which is extracted from the *Gazette*: — ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁

“ An interesting anecdote was told by an English gentleman who was inspecting the semi-dilapidated range of buildings, still known by their original name of Rasco's Hotel. In 1842, while on a visit to this country, Dickens stayed at Rasco's, then the most fashionable hotel in the city. One morning the novelist received a letter purporting to have been written at the instance of an English laboring-man and his wife, in which, in rough phraseology, they stated they had heard a great deal respecting the beautiful books he had written and the good done for “ us poor folks,” and asked his permission to name their little baby-boy after him, promising to so educate him that he might fully appreciate the works of the great novelist. Dickens sent a reply, as requested, directed “ Post Office till called for,” stating that he was proud to know that his name had been conferred on the child in recollection of his writings, and wishing that the little one might become all his parents hoped to see him, adding, that if he should ever learn that he had been the means of awakening in the little one any new love for his fellow-creatures, and a desire to help to assist them with his sympathy, he (Dickens) should feel much pleasure in the knowledge. This first letter, it appears, was merely a subterfuge on the part of the son of one of the officers of the garrison, who was desirous of obtaining the autograph of the great novelist for his collection. Since then he learned to be ashamed of the mean trick he played upon

Dickens ; but from it he gained a far higher appreciation of the character of the great novelist than he otherwise might have done. He became the owner of extensive plantations in the Presidency of Bengal, India, and was very popular among the natives for his humanity and the uprightness of his dealings."

The following story of Rasco himself is well worth repeating ; it was related by one who was boarding at the Hotel at the time of its occurrence : — ❦ ❦ ❦

"This evening quite a scene took place in the house. I told you, I think, that there are several regiments stationed here, some of them called crack regiments, or the flower of the British army." ❦ ❦

"They are officered by noblemen from the higher circles of English society ; many of them are younger sons of Marquis this, or my Lord that, for whom a commission has been purchased. They are sent abroad with their regiments, carrying along with them their follies, and insufferable arrogance, which they condescend to exhibit to the Canadian colonists or whoever else they may honour by their notice."

"At the balls and evening entertainments, given by many of the leading influential families here, I have met a great many of these scions of nobility, whose lispng air of dandyism and extreme fastidious politeness, is sufficient to throw a damper on the gayest party that ever met for amusement." ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦

"True, there are exceptions ; some of these uniformed gentlemen, are gentlemen, in every sense of the word, but they are like "angels visits," few and far between. One of these walking titles, for he is



and aimed it straight at the head of the angry Italian. It skimmed past him and shattered into fragments a mirror on the opposite side of the room. In an instant all was confusion. Certainly, Rasco was a brave man, and he needed all his courage to stand alone among these half-drunk men whose passions were aroused by being commanded to leave the house in so peremptory a manner, by one they considered so much beneath them." ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

"You'll go out yourself first, my good fellow," said the titled ruffian, raising the window and attempting to force the lithe figure of the Italian towards it, but he reckoned without his host. One of the double windows had been removed that day by his own orders, the better to cool the air of the apartment. Just then, the waiter Tom, who had heard the crash of glass, came on the scene, and lifting his lordship in his powerful grasp, dropped him in the street beneath, as he would a puppy dog, saying "that is the way to pay off Algerines like you; shove them out of the port holes. They say misery likes company," and taking another of the brawlers just as if it was child's play to him, sent him flying after his companion, while he shouted down to him "give Lord fiddle-faddle, Tom Pringle's compliments." ❀ ❀

"The remainder of the party doubtless thought discretion the part of valour, for they found the way without delay, or even an escort, to the street, where they picked up, and carried to some of their lodgings or quarters, their late host." ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

"It was fully expected that they would have Rasco





veloped in a peculiar direction for he did not strive so much after completing a series as to have quantity. He purchased great hoads of coppers when offered cheap. To such an extent did these purchases reach, that at the time of his death his duplicates alone numbered between fifty and one hundred thousand mainly Canadian and foreign coppers. But he did not by any means neglect rarities, for he possessed many beautiful treasures, and the sight of his cabinet was a delight to the collector. His bearing towards his *confreres*, especially beginners, was kindly and helpful. And although he had not received a classical training, having left school for business at the age of fifteen, his knowledge of the subject was extensive. Such was the attraction of his conversation on numismatic subjects, that his place became a regular collector's *rendez-vous*. Those living out of town hied them thitherward to hear the latest coin gossip. He, by no means, confined his antiquarian tastes exclusively to coins, for his collection of old documents was extensive ; he had much relating to the early history of the city, especially St. Gabriel's Church. He was elected a member of our Society at a meeting held on the 18th of November 1884, and his interest in its welfare continued throughout, he having been, at the meeting of 14th May 1896, attending during his ten years membership over fifty meetings. Although having read no paper nor entered actively into the regular discussions, he evinced his interest by exhibiting many of his rarities, and from time to time by presenting duplicates. He served the Society for two years, 1892 and 1893, as a member





## NOTES BIOGRAPHIQUES SUR CHARLES LEMOINE

PAR J. B. VALLEE.



**C**HARLES Lemoine était originaire de Saint-Rémi de Dieppe, en Normandie. Il y fut baptisé le 2 août 1626. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

Les récits merveilleux que faisaient les voyageurs sur le Nouveau-Monde avaient dû frapper une imagination comme celle de Lemoine ; aussi, sachant qu'il avait des parents dans cette contrée, il se décida à faire le voyage d'Amérique. Il avait 15 ans lorsqu'il s'embarqua pour le Nouveau-Monde ; il débarqua à Québec où demeurait un de ses oncles nommé Adrien Duchaine. C'était en 1641. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

En arrivant, Lemoine se mit immédiatement au service des Jésuites qui, voyant sa grande facilité pour apprendre les langues sauvages, l'envoyèrent au pays des Hurons où ils avaient des missionnaires. Il y demeura 4 ans. Durant son séjour, il acquit une connaissance parfaite de tous les idiômes indiens ; à son retour à Québec, il reçut pour ces quatre années de services vingt écus en argent et "on lui donna du linge honnêtement." ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

En 1645, il était employé à Trois-Rivières en sa qualité d'interprète, de soldat et de commis. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

A Ville-Marie, les besoins d'un interprète se faisaient sentir depuis longtemps ; on en fit une demande à M. de Montmagny qui envoya Lemoine, et ce dernier leur rendit de grands services en cette qualité.

M. Benjamin Sulte dit que "la paix faite avec les

Sauvages allait être rompue par ces barbares quoiqu'ils l'eussent eux-mêmes désirée, mais la Providence, qui veillait à la conservation de Ville-Marie, lui procura, dans cette circonstance, un secours important dans le don qu'elle lui fit d'un habile interprète en langue iroquoise, qui rendit les services les plus signalés, et même illustra le pays." ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

En ce temps-là, il n'était pas prudent pour les habitants de s'éloigner de leurs demeures sans s'exposer à être tués par les Sauvages. Il n'y avait pas une souche ou un arbrisseau qui ne pût être la cache d'un ennemi. On raconte que plusieurs Sauvages s'étant présentés sous les apparences d'un pourparler, M. Normanville et M. Lemoine s'avancèrent un peu vers eux, et trois des leurs se détachèrent afin de venir leur parler. M. Normanville, voyant ces hommes s'approcher sans arme, s'en alla aussi de son côté vers le gros des Iroquois avec une seule demi-pique à la main, par contenance ; ce que Lemoine voyant, il lui cria : " Ne vous avancez pas ainsi vers ces traîtres. " Lui, trop crédule, ne laissa pas que d'aller vers eux ; mais lorsqu'il y fut, ils l'enveloppèrent si insensiblement et si bien que, quand il s'en aperçut, il ne lui fut plus possible de se retirer. Lemoine, apercevant la perfidie, coucha en joue les trois Iroquois qui étaient auprès de lui et leur dit qu'il tuerait le premier qui branlerait, à moins que Normanville ne revint. Un des trois demanda à l'y aller chercher — ce qu'il lui permit — mais cet homme ne revenant pas, il contraignit les deux autres à marcher devant lui au Château, d'où ils ne sortirent que le lendemain où Normanville fut rendu.





les pistolets armés. Les Iroquois effrayés sautent dans leur canot, et le courant les entraîne au fort. Au moment où ils abordent, les mousquetaires les couchent en joue ; les sauvages se livrent prisonniers, leur chef Laplume s'avança au large et dit qu'il se vengerait si on ne lui rendait pas ses hommes. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

Le lendemain, la flotte entière traverse le fleuve et vient attaquer la place. Le major Closse et Lemoine, sur l'ordre du gouverneur, les attendaient au moment où ils débarquaient. Lemoine, avec quatre braves, les charge avant qu'ils fussent armés, le major disperse le reste et Laplume fut fait prisonnier avec cinq de ses guerriers. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

En 1657, en descendant à Québec, Lemoine fit la rencontre d'une tribu d'Iroquois et réussit à s'emparer de deux de leurs chefs, qu'il échangea contre des prisonniers français. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

Au printemps de 1660, les Iroquois résolurent de ruiner la colonie et se mirent en marche avec une armée considérable. Les habitants du lieu, en ayant appris la nouvelle, organisèrent une expédition sous le commandement du brave Dollard Désormeau. Lemoine, ne voulant pas rester en arrière, offrit ses services ; mais comme il différait d'opinion avec Dollard sur le temps du départ, — ne voulant partir qu'après les semences faites pour avoir plus d'hommes à opposer à l'ennemi, — Dollard ne voulut pas écouter ses sages conseils et s'embarqua avec ses compagnons. On connaît la mort héroïque et glorieuse de ces vaillants hommes qui, faisant le sacrifice de leur vie, s'en allèrent à une mort certaine. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

En 1663, Lemoine fut nommé à la charge de procureur du roi par M. de Mézy, alors gouverneur général.

Au mois de juillet 1665, Lemoine partit pour la chasse avec quelques sauvages de la nation des Loups, malgré tous les efforts possibles faits par ses amis pour l'en empêcher. Rendu à l'île Sainte-Thérèse, il fut attaqué par les Iroquois ; ces derniers lui crient de se rendre, et ses ennemis l'entourent. Lemoine, voyant qu'il ne peut échapper, s'apprête néanmoins à disputer chèrement sa vie. Malheureusement, son pied s'accroche dans une racine d'arbre ; il fait un faux pas, tombe et est fait prisonnier. Ces Sauvages, au lieu de le brûler, comme c'était leur habitude, l'amènèrent dans leur bourgade et il y demeura jusqu'à l'automne suivant.

Pendant son séjour chez les Sauvages, il les étonna beaucoup par sa hardiesse de langage et il les effraya tellement par ses discours qu'ils lui donnèrent sa liberté. Ses amis furent très surpris de le voir revenir, croyant qu'il avait été massacré par ces Sauvages.

Le 30 mai 1664, il acheta l'île Saint-Hélène et l'île Ronde des héritiers de Lauzon, à la charge de dix minots de blé froment de rentes nobles, féodales et foncières, payables à chaque fête de la Saint-Martin d'hiver, avec les revenus d'une année de la dite île Sainte-Hélène à chaque mutation de possesseur. ❀ ❀

Le sieur de Lauzon reconnaît ensuite que la rente portée par icelui est exorbitante : il la réduit à dix livres en argent, par écrit du 12 décembre 1665. ❀ ❀

En mars 1668, Louis XIV accorda à Charles Lemoine ses lettres de noblesse. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

En 1672, par titre du 3 novembre, Jean Talon, con-

seiller du roi etc., concédait à Lemoine une étendue de terre sur le fleuve Saint-Laurent depuis la borne du sieur de Varennes jusqu'aux terres des Pères Jésuites avec les îles et îlets adjacents, sur une lieue et demie de profondeur. On voit par ces titres que Lemoine y est dénommé "Sieur Lemoine, sieur de Longueuil."

En 1683, Lemoine, quoique malade, sur la demande de M. de La Barre, dut se rendre sur les bords du lac Ontario pour y rencontrer les Sauvages de ces cantons. Il y conduisit si bien les négociations que le 3 septembre 1684, la paix fut conclue. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

M. Lemoine, sentant sa fin approcher, fit son testament devant maître Basset, notaire royal de la terre et de l'île de Montréal, en date du 30 juin 1685. M. Lemoine mourut peu de temps après cela, vers le commencement du mois de février suivant. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

L'inventaire de ses biens fut fait quelques semaines après son décès, à la demande de sa femme. Voici la liste des immeubles qu'il laissait : ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

"Le fief Châteauguay, estimé à 10,000 livres ; le fief au bout d'en haut de l'île de Montréal, 650 livres ; le fief Maricourt (l'île Perrot), estimé à 1,000 livres ; la concession de Lachine, 1,000 livres ; la maison de ville, 11,000 livres ; un emplacement voisin de la maison, 1,500 livres ; la concession de la Pointe Saint-Charles, 60 arpents, 5,000 livres ; le fief de l'île Sainte-Hélène estimé à 800 livres : formant en tout 30,953 livres." ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

Pour donner une idée de la valeur du prix des marchandises à cette époque, nous trouvons dans l'inventaire l'estimation des effets suivants : ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

“ 32 livres de vaisselle d'étain neuf, à 28 sols la livre ; 500 livres de fer en barre, 22 livres le cent ; 52 douzaines de batfeu, à 36 sols ; 12 grosses d'alènes, à 4 livres ; 7,000 pierres à fusil, à 4 livres le millier ; dix milliers de clous, à 20 livres le millier ; 100 minots de sel, à 50 sols ; 132 livres de rasades, à 8 sols ; 107 livres de poivre, à 21 sols la livre ; 56 batfeu, à 10 sols la pièce ; dix-huit milliers de clous à bardeaux, à 20 sols le millier.” Le blé valait 50 sols le minot, les pois 45 sols, et le maïs 40 sols. ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦

Madame Lemoine ne survécut que cinq ans à son mari, et mourut en 1690. ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦

Charles Lemoine a laissé une famille nombreuses qui a illustré notre pays. Voici les noms de ses enfants :

Charles, sieur de Longueuil ; Jacques, sieur de Sainte-Hélène ; Pierre, sieur d'Iberville ; Paul, sieur de Maricourt ; François, sieur de Bienville I ; Jean-Baptiste, sieur de Bienville II ; Antoine, sieur de Châteauguay ; François-Marie, sieur de Sauvale ; Catherine-Jeanne, Marie-Anne et Gabrielle. ❦ ❦ ❦ ❦



## UN PRECIEUX MANUSCRIT



**L'**ANGLETERRE est à la veille de perdre un de ses livres les plus précieux. Il s'agit du récit manuscrit laissé par un des Pilgrim Fathers, c'est-à-dire par un des colons anglais de l'Amérique du Nord, William Bradford, qui fut par la suite gouverneur de la colonie de la Nouvelle-Angleterre, et contenant la relation du



premier voyage entrepris et des premiers établissements. Ce manuscrit avait disparu pendant la guerre de l'Indépendance et on le supposait définitivement perdu, quand on le retrouva, vers la fin du siècle dernier, dans la bibliothèque du palais de Fulham, résidence des évêques de Londres, sans qu'on ait pu découvrir exactement ni comment ni à quelle époque il était entré. Quelque temps après son arrivée à Londres, M. Bayard, ambassadeur des Etats-Unis, qui sera prochainement remplacé par M. John Hay, fit une première démarche auprès de l'évêché pour obtenir que ce document, si précieux pour l'Amérique, fut restitué au gouvernement des Etats-Unis pour être placé dans la bibliothèque de New-York. Cette démarche avait été précédée de pourparlers engagés avec le Foreign Office. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

Le gouvernement britannique et l'évêché de Londres ont fait savoir à l'ambassade américaine, qu'ils consentaient à la restitution du précieux manuscrit de William Bradford. On s'occupe actuellement de prendre de chaque feuillet des épreuves photographiques qui seront reportées sur zinc, et d'après lesquelles les bibliothèques publiques anglaises pourront au moins en conserver de parfaits fac-similés. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

Le célèbre manuscrit ne passera l'Atlantique que vers la fin du mois de septembre. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

