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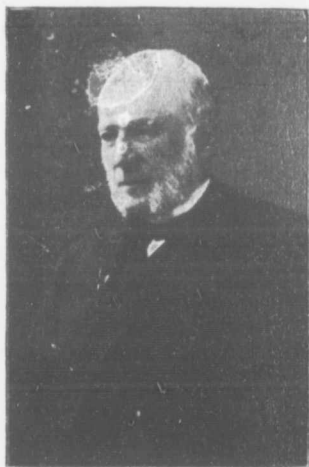
from Sir James LeMoine

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THE CELEBRATION
OF THE EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY
OF
SIR JAMES MACPHERSON LeMOINE

JANUARY 24th, 1905

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Celebration of Sir James LeMoine's Eightieth Anniversary of His Birth

(From *Quebec Daily Telegraph*, Jan. 24th 1905.)

Many personal friends and admirers of our esteemed fellow-citizen, Sir James M. LeMoine, D.C.L., F.R.S.C., the historian of Quebec, drove out to his manor house, Spencer Grange, this afternoon, to congratulate the versatile author upon the attainment of his eightieth birthday.

There is probably no other Quebecker who enjoys to a greater extent the esteem, and the respect of his fellow-citizens, than does the octogenarian knight of literature, and of Spencer Grange, who first saw the light of day in this city on the 24th of January, 1825.

It is not too much to say that Quebec owes a debt of gratitude to Sir James M. LeMoine, that can never be repaid. No man has done more than he to make known the many fascinating details of our romantic past. Nobody has done more successful work in rescuing from oblivion the manuscript, and other sources of both our ancient and comparatively modern history. It is impossible in the brief compass of a congratulatory birthday notice to even recapitulate the amount of literary work in connection with Quebec, and its immediate surroundings, which has flown from the pen of this gifted author.

Over thirty books, some in English, others in French, besides half as many papers on various historical subjects, read before the Royal Society of Canada, eloquently testify to the literary industry of our respected Knight.

Sir James LeMoine's indiscriminate use of two languages—so uncommon an occurrence— even in this age of advanced culture—is doubtless to be attributed to his dual origin; for while his father traced his descent to the French LeMoynes, of one of the first French families which emigrated from Normandy to Quebec, about 1650.

his mother, Julia Ann MacPherson, was the daughter of Daniel MacPherson, a United Empire Loyalist, who was born in 1753, at Fort William, Invernesshire, Scotland, and driven from Philadelphia in 1783.

Upon very few of our citizens have honors poured so thickly as upon the author of "Maple Leaves," of "Quebec Past and Present," of "Picturesque Quebec," and of so many other books of history, archaeology, ornithology, Canadian legends, and the sports afforded by our woods, and waters.

Admitted to the Bar of Quebec in 1850, he practised law for some time as a member of the law firm of Kerr & LeMoine, and then for a long period of years served his country as Inspector at Quebec of the Inland Revenue of the Dominion. His official services extended over a period of 52 years.

For many years President of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, he has also been President of the Royal Society of Canada, the highest honor that literature in this country can confer. To crown all, he was knighted on the 1st of January, 1897, by her late Majesty Queen Victoria, for his distinguished services to Canadian literature. He is a D.C.L. of Bishop's College, Lennoxville. Sir James is also the possessor of a very long list of titles and diplomas from various home and foreign learned societies. Such distinguished novelists as Francis Parkman, William Kirby, author of the *Chien d'Or*, and Sir Gilbert Parker, have freely expressed their indebtedness to him for assistance, and suggestions in their work.

The *Daily Telegraph* unites with the many friends of the gallant Knight of Spencer Grange, in warmly congratulating him upon his attainment of his eightieth birthday, and in wishing him a green old age in which to enjoy many more anniversaries of his birth, and the esteem and regard of his fellow citizens; and with these congratulations the writer presents his own, regretting that unavoidable absence from town this afternoon prevents him from tendering them in person.

E. T. D. C.

A Knight's Birthday

(*Quebec Chronicle*, Jan. 25th, 1905.)

Yesterday afternoon, between the hours of three and six o'clock, the residence of Sir James LeMoine, Spencer Grange, was the scene of one of the pleasantest social reunions ever held in Quebec. The veteran author, publicist and naturalist, had attained his eightieth birthday, and recovering from a severe illness of many weeks duration, he conceived the happy idea of assembling under his hospitable roof, friends of the olden days, to once again discuss the problems of the hour, to renew acquaintances, and to grasp friendly hands. The venerable Knight looked much younger than octogenarians usually look. When he stood up, his carriage was as erect as an arrow. He talked even better than he did fifteen years ago, and his memory, always good, in no one single instance failed him. The charm of his conversation lay in his recollections of the prominent men and women whom he had met, from time to time. A head for dates, for places and for folk-lore he ever possessed, and to-day he can recall events and incidents without effort. With all his guests he chatted pleasantly. He remembered everybody. As one guest after the other sat by his side, he eagerly supplied gaps in the conversation, and made everyone around him happy to find his genial personality unchanged, and his whole-heartedness as whole as ever. His guests were received by his daughter, Miss LeMoine, Miss Edith LeMoine and Mrs. Geo. M. Fairchild, jr. Among those who paid their respects to Sir James were:

F. J. Cockburn,	Lt.-Col. Frost Wood Gray
Rev. A. A. VonIffland,	Lt.-Col. J. F. Tunbull,
Dr. Brophy,	Herbert M. Price,
James B. Hance,	P. B. Casgrain,
Rev. Father Maguire,	J. U. Gregory,
Very Rev. Dean Williams,	John Ritchie,
Rev. A. T. Love,	D. M. Stuart,
Hon. J. Sharples,	W. Price,

S. Lesage,
Cyr. Tessier,
Frank Carrel,
Major Wood,
Dr. George Stewart,
John S. Budden,
Lt.-Col. Duchesnay,
W. A. Bignell,
H. T. Machin,
G. M. Fairchild, jr.
Dr. J. M. Harper,
Lt.-Col. J. Bell Forsyth,

Stuart LeMoine Fairchild,
John H. Holt,
Col.-Surgeon Neilson,
J. Theodore Ross,
Gustavus G. Stuart,
J. G. Scott,
Alfred P. Wheeler,
Chas. de V. Harwood,
Philippe Huot,
Rev. F. G. Scott,
Norman Neilson.

When the Full complement of guests was assembled in the drawing room, an adjournment was made to the dining hall of Spencer Grange, where light refreshments were served, under the presidency of the host himself. After full justice had been done to the viandes, Sir James proposed a health, that of himself, in humorous terms, and what was still better he quaffed a cup to his health. This sally put everybody into good humor, but Dr. Harper had no intention of allowing even Sir James to take the wind out of his sails, or to delay a well prepared speech from being uttered. He thereupon, in his best manner, and with a soupcon of dry Scottish wit thrown in, proposed the health of Sir James LeMoine, an honest man. It was drunk with Highland honors, and Sir James pleasantly acknowledged the compliment. Mr. P. B. Casgrain, and Major Wood also spoke feelingly and well, and told their hearers how much they were indebted to the Nestor of the Canadian literature for their own success in the same field, followers they were of his lead. The speeches were all in good taste. They breathed an air of reverence and respect. They acknowledged their worth, true manliness, true kindness of heart, true sweetness of life and movement. Sir James was much touched by these expressions, but he bore up well, and when his guests left his hospitable board, he was himself again, the grand old courteous gentleman, Seigneur of Spencer Grange, and the central figure of a large circle of old companions.

From Old and New

(*The Montreal Gazette*, Feb. 11, 1905)

The friends of the veteran historian and essayist, Sir James M. LeMoine, will have read with pleasure of the homage paid to him on his last birthday (January 24th) by his literary and other friends of the ancient capital. The numerous guests were received by his daughter, Miss LeMoine; Miss Edith LeMoine and Mrs. George M. Fairchild, jr., sharing in the pleasant task.

In the dining hall of Spencer Grange refreshments were served, and Mr. P. B. Casgrain, Dr. J. M. Harper and Major Wood expressed, on behalf of his guests, and many other friends, the good wishes that the occasion suggested. To Sir James, the Nestor of Canadian literature, they were all indebted for much in whatever success they had one or all attained. In him and his family, said Mr. Casgrain, they acknowledged true worth, true humanity, true kindness of heart, true sweetness of life and thought. On taking leave of the Laird of Spencer Grange, every guest was delighted to see Sir James looking so like himself. "His smile" (to quote the *Chronicle*), "was a benediction and all departed with his blessing, and best wishes for early reunion."

R. V.

Speeches Made on the Occasion

(*Quebec Telegraph*, Feb. 1st, 1905.)

At the reception a few days ago of old friends to celebrate the eightieth birthday of Sir James M. LeMoine, some deserving tributes were paid the old historian by those present, and in reply Sir James made one of his characteristic speeches. Our readers, we are sure, will be interested in reading both.

Dr. Harper in proposing the health of Sir James LeMoine alluded to the long life so industriously spent, and that beyond all things he had been fearless and honest, both as a public official, and as an historian, and

no man in our community enjoyed to so great a degree the esteem, and respect of all classes of our citizens.

Mr. P. B. Casgrain, in French, seconded Dr. Harper's proposal, and feelingly referred to the life-long friendship that had existed between Sir James and himself. He then spoke of the inestimable services of Sir James as historian, and chronicler of his beloved Canada. His facility in writing both in French and English gave him a decided advantage over many other writers. Sir James with great impartiality had published some of his works in French, and others in English. Another most commendable trait in his character was that of being helpful to contemporary writers. Some of the most distinguished of them have gratefully acknowledged their indebtedness to him for inspiration, advice or suggestions.

Major Wood being called upon to make a few remarks, said:—I, as a younger man than many of those present here to-day, did not expect to be called upon to speak, but since the opportunity has been given me, I am delighted to bear testimony to the fact that Sir James has been an important factor in inspiring the younger historic writers. My own work has been on the lines of that of a follower of our dear old friend.

Sir James, in reply to the toast of his health and long life to continue his literary work begun years ago, said:—Friends and neighbors, it is a matter of very great joy and pleasure to me to-day, to have gathered about me in my Sillery home, Spencer Grange, so large a number of dear old friends, many of you the friends of my youth, the friends throughout my long life, and whose friendship I hope to enjoy to the end of my days which you have all of you expressed the wish that they may be long continued. At fourscore, however, life's future is uncertain at best, but if you will all promise to gather here another ten years hence, I, on my part, will do the best I can to be with you. In proposing my health you have been good enough to allude to the work I have done in the realms of Canadian literature, more particularly in making known the attractions of our old rock city in its many phases, historical, scenic and otherwise. In the year 1860 I inaugurated the first series of Maple Leaves.

It blazed a new trail in Canadian annals, for while striving for historical accuracy, I also endeavored to present in attractive form the salient facts in Canadian history, and the history of Quebec for the larger reading public. The success of this first volume far exceeded my most sanguine expectations, and it led to succeeding volumes of the same series, coupled with other works on various historical subjects relating always to Canada. This work of mine was continued for over forty years, in such time as I could spare from my official duties. As a writer on historical subjects I have always felt the responsibility for that spirit of absolute fairness that should pervade the work of the historical writer, and if I have at times erred it has been purely unintentional, or from an absence of data not then perhaps at my command. I have always held that every man within his sphere should be responsible for his acts. It should be the aim of every man to help advance the welfare of mankind in general. I have in my poor way endeavored to live up to this belief.

I thank you my dear old friends and neighbors, for the honor you have done me to-day, and in my turn I wish you long years and prosperity.

G. M. F., Jr.

Telegrams and Letters of Congratulation

The following telegrams and letters were received by Sir James on his birthday:—From Macpherson and Mary LeMoyné, of Boston, a telegram of warmest love; Mrs. Laura G. Collins, the American authoress, hearty congratulations; Miss G. FitzGerald, Ottawa, much love; Mr. and Mrs. Bryce Stimson, every kind wish.

Among the numerous letters received, those from the following well known friends may be mentioned as evidence of the regard entertained for the historian of Quebec:—Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rhodes, Pueblo; William Doëll, Beauvoir; Thos. McFarlane, Ottawa; D. R. McCord, Montreal; Geo. H. Holt, Lachine; Mrs. Joshua Thomson, Levis; Nolan Cauchon, Montreal; S. E. Gregory, California; Major N. LeVasseur, Quebec; Fred.

C. Würtele, Quebec; William Price, Quebec; Henry Atkinson, Etchemin; Rev. F. G. Scott, Quebec; Armitage Rhodes, Benmore; L. H. Frechette, Montreal; Jennie Danforth, Joliette; Arch. Campbell, Thornhill; Mrs. Westlake Yeigh, Toronto; Chas. Langelier, Quebec; Felix Carbray, Quebec; Ed. LeMoine, Quebec; Paul de Cazes, Quebec; Benjamin Sulte, Ottawa; Judge Geo. Bay, Montreal; Mrs. Effie Bignell, New Brunswick, N. J.; Mrs. E. H. Boggs, New Brunswick, N. J.; John M. LeMoyne, Compton, Quebec; Chas Stimson, Vancouver, B. C., Monsgr Ph. H. Suzor, Nicolet; Auguste Dupuis, Village des Aulnaies; Mlle Laura Conan, Malbaie; J. B. Learmont, Montreal; Maude Krauss, Chicago; Byron Nicholson, Quebec.

