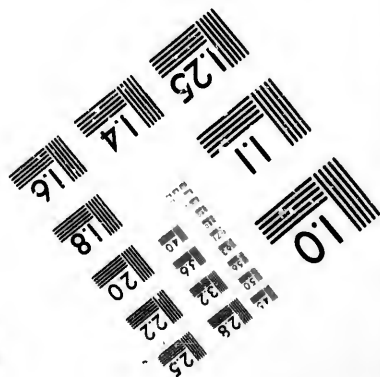
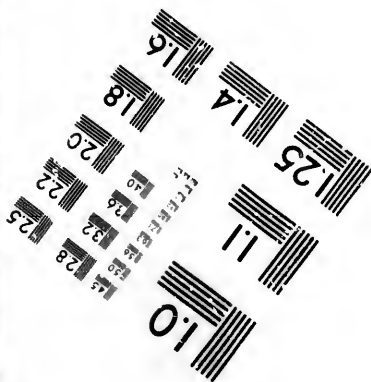
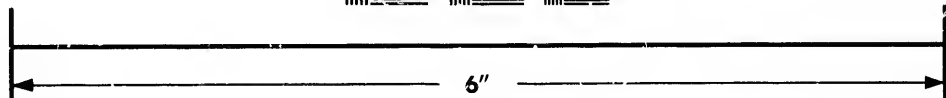
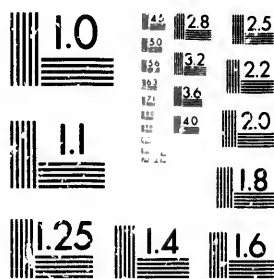


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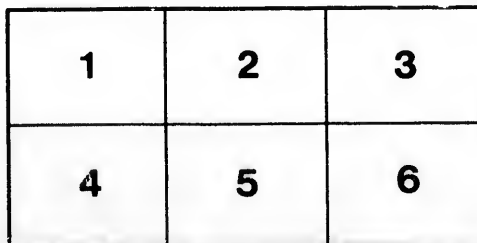
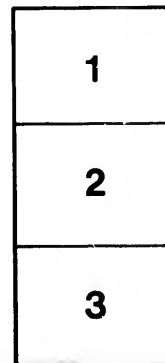
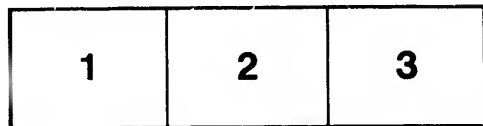
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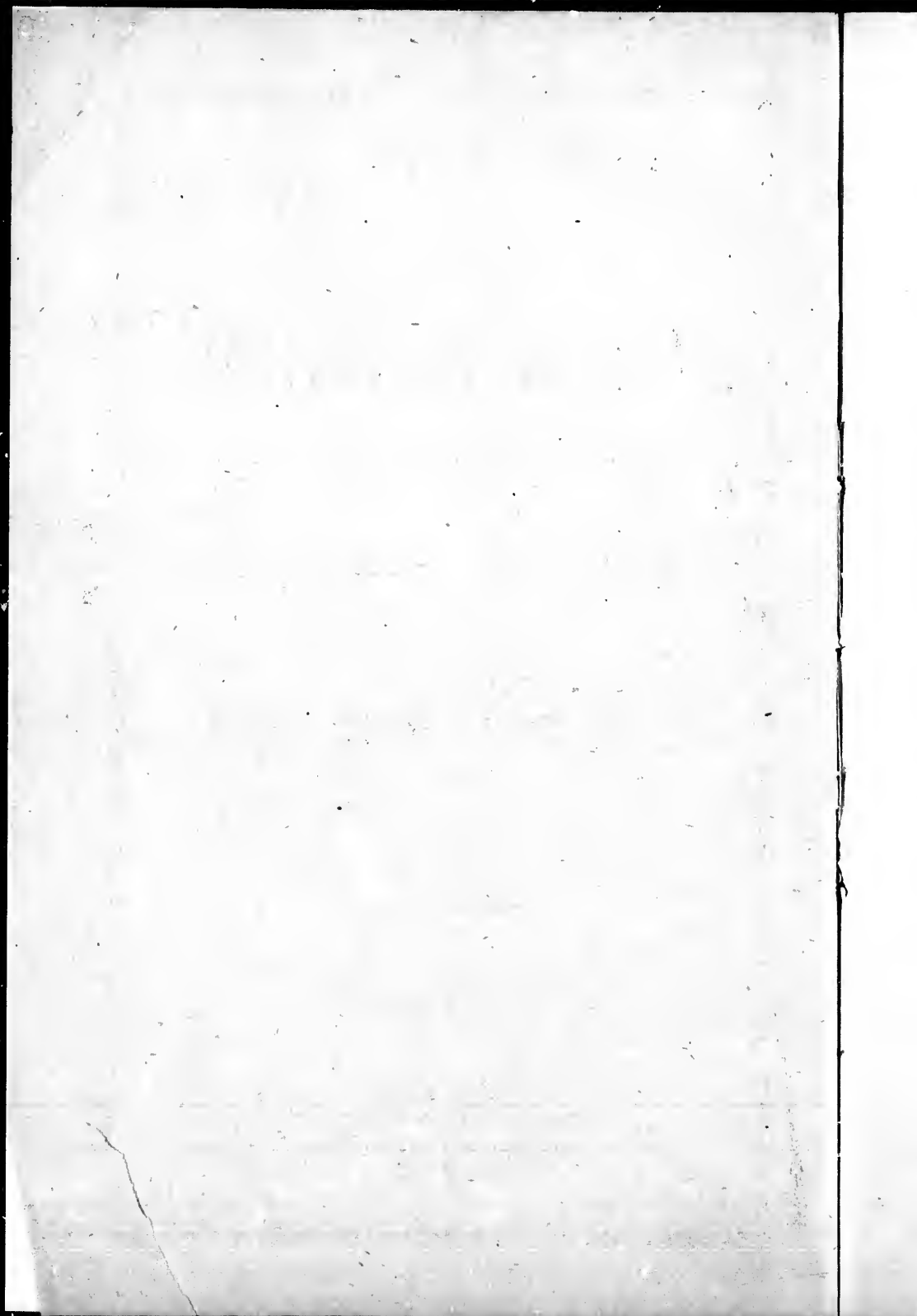
"THE CHRONICLES OF THE ST. LAWRENCE"

By J. P. TARDIVEL.



QUEBEC  
"LE CANADIEN" STEAM PRINTING OFFICE,  
Nos. 38 and 40, Ste-Famille Street.

1873



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TARDIVEL, J. P.

## A WORD OF EXPLANATION.

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The following pages were first intended for publication in one of the English journals of this Canada of ours. I was under the impression, erroneous it appears, that public prints were invented for the discussion of questions of public interest, and I had fondly hoped that my remarks on Mr. Lemoine's latest work would not be passed over entirely unheeded by the *literati*. The editor to whom my manuscript was submitted by a mutual friend, through whose influence I sought to gain access to the out-side world, took a widely different view of the question. He did not pronounce my writing trash and consign it to the waste basket, as he might have done ; for this favor I am truly thankful. If I am rightly informed, he did not give himself the trouble of reading it ; he merely glanced over the first few lines and his eagle eye having at once discovered that what I had penned was something else than a hackneyed *puff*, he let my audacious composition drop in holy horror. " Oh ! quoth he, it would never do to publish this ; why it might hurt Lemoine ! " Against this argument *ad hominem* my friend could say nothing, being convinced that to the editor's mind " hurting Lemoine " would be the *nec plus ultra* of human perversity.

If Mr. Editor choose to place Mr. Lemoine above the rest of mankind, if to him it seem preferable that the reading public be led astray by false representations rather than that a single feather of this author's literary plumage be ruffled, then of course we have only to bow our heads in humble submission, for there is no law on earth that proscribes fogyism. A man, even if he is the editor of a newspaper, has a perfect right to be stupid if he sees fit.

But perhaps after all Mr. Editor is more to be pitied than blamed. He may be one of the many unhappy victims who have fallen a prey to the wiles of Mr. J. M. Lemoine, a man wise, not to say canny in his generation and one who knoweth how to make unto himself friends, especially amongst editors of newspapers and reviewers of books. He has a peculiar, winning way of bringing the Press over to his side. His receipt works like a charm, or rather like a railway subsidy on a refractory "member."

This, however, is digression. Seeing that the "air line" to publicity was closed against me, I determined to resort to the next shortest route, the pamphlet. For I was firmly resolved to "say my say" on the *Chronicles of the St. Lawrence*, little recking whether my criticism would "hurt Lemoine" or not.

J. P. TARDIVEL.

Quebec, November, 1878.

PART I.

MR. LEMOINE IN BORROWED FEATHERS.

Un paon nuait : un geai prit son plumage ;  
Puis après se l'accommoda ;  
Puis parmi d'autres paons tout fier se panada,  
Croyant être un beau personnage.

.....  
Il est assez de geais à deux pieds comme lui,  
Qui se parent souvent des dépouilles d'autrui,  
Et que l'on appelle plagiaires.

(LA FONTAINE).

In a footnote, page 211 of the *Chronicles of the St. Lawrence*, Mr. Lemoine complains somewhat bitterly of a certain writer, one Chapin by name, who "pillaged and robbed" *Legendary Lore of the St. Lawrence*. He concludes thus :

"Five of my sketches of Canadian History, some of which have cost me much research, are thus unceremoniously abstracted and perverted, transformed in what he calls "tinted fact" without any acknowledgment whatever of the source whence the materials were drawn. I was in the act of drafting an energetic protest against this literary pirate, when I heard of his death."

The foregoing would lead us to suppose that Mr. Lemoine is a sworn foe to literary pirates and piracy. It is unfortunate, in the interests of Canadian literature, that the unscrupulous purloiner of *Legendary Lore* should have come to so untimely an end ; had he lived, we would now be in possession of Mr. Lemoine's "energetic protest," a document which would have struck terror into the souls of plagiarists for all time to come.

Procrastination is always dangerous. Perhaps Mr. Lemoine hesitated a moment ere he resolved to hurl

his death dealing thunderbolt at the head of the ill-starred Chapin, thus allowing the wretched man to escape over the dark river, and depriving the world of a priceless treatise on plagiarism. What was Chapin's gain is our loss.

Life is uncertain. And though I sincerely trust that Mr. Lemoine has still before him a long and glorious career, yet no man knoweth at what hour the dread shadow may beckon him away. It behooves me therefore to lose no time in showing to the public how conscientiously Mr. Lemoine, the denunciator of literary piracy, observes the Golden Rule : " Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you."

\*  
\* \*

Not being personally interested in the matter, I should have been willing to leave Mr. Lemoine alone in his glory and his plagiarisms until doom's day, had not my eye fallen on certain so called criticisms of this gentleman's latest work : *The Chronicles of the St. Lawrence*. Not long since the *Mercury*, the *Montreal Gazette* and the *Rose-Belford Canadian Monthly* published, anent this book, articles of considerable length and filled to overflowing with the most extravagant eulogies of Mr. Lemoine and his writings. Puff, I am aware, is a necessary evil in these our degenerate times, but there is a limit to human endurance, and the fulsome, almost nauseating praise bestowed on the *Chronicles of the St. Lawrence* excited my curiosity and determined me to glance through this wonderful volume. I found therein much to commend. The work is nicely got up and speaks well for the printer and the binder ; it moreover contains a fair amount of useful and interesting information borrowed from competent writers on the regions of the Lower St. Lawrence. But I also discovered defects so glaring that none but the blindest of critics could have failed to perceive them. It is even whispered about that Mr. Lemoine is himself

the author of the above mentioned articles. But those who are best acquainted with Mr. Lemoine and know how great is his modesty, will turn a deaf ear to this idle and malicious rumour set afloat by some unscrupulous gossip.

Whatever be the source of the articles alluded to, they are woefully one sided and unjust. Mr. Lemoine's good points which, like angels' visits, are few and far between, are viewed through a very strong lens, whilst no mention is made of the many imperfections that mar this as well as the other writings of the same author. This rapturous and biased praise has no more the right to be called criticism than have the flaring yellow hand bills which adorn the walls of the city and herald the coming of a circus or a troop of dusky minstrels. It is but fair that the public, who pay their money, should have the privilege of taking their choice ; and how can they choose if they are continually misled by reviewers of new books who indiscriminately laud to the skies every work that comes under their notice ?

The *Gazette*, the *Mercury* and the *Canadian Monthly* having more than exhausted all that is to be said in favor of the *Chronicles*, I deem it meet that the public should be shown the other side of the medal, as the French say. And as no one seems inclined to perform this rather delicate operation, I, who am accustomed to the frowns and sullen looks of irate authors, take upon myself the ungrateful task.

“ Mr. Lemoine's books, says the *Rose-Belford Canadian Monthly*, appear with *startling* rapidity, and we no sooner digest one portly volume than a new one comes quickly on the scene.” The “startling rapidity” will be accounted for further on, but allow me to remark at once that in my humble opinion it would be far more becoming in Mr. Lemoine to digest his “portly volumes” himself, instead of leaving that onerous duty to be performed by the

unlucky reader. By so doing, what his books might lose in "startling rapidity" they would certainly gain in solid worth.

In the first place I beg leave to offer my explanation of the "startling rapidity" with which books bearing Mr. Lemoine's name appear. I say books bearing Mr. Lemoine's name, and not Mr. Lemoine's books, and I say so advisedly.

Mr. Lemoine's latest work, of which such great things have been said, is, for a very considerable part, copied from other writings. Whole chapters are transferred bodily from the works of divers Canadian and American authors to the *Chronicles*. Like the bird of the fable, this gentleman has been heretofore decking himself in borrowed feathers, and it is high time that a little judicious plucking should be done.

I have taken the pains, with the help of some friends, to carefully analyse *The Chronicles*, page by page, in order to ascertain, as far as possible, how much of this work belongs to Mr. Lemoine and how much of it is stolen or borrowed property. Here is the result of our investigations.

---

HOW THE "CHRONICLES OF THE SAINT LAWRENCE"  
WERE WRITTEN (?)

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*The "true inwardness" of the book.*

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- Page 330— $\frac{3}{4}$  page.—Code of signals..... Acknowledgment.
- Page 331 to 332—1 $\frac{1}{2}$  page.—Incident of siege of 1759, Chevalier Johnstone..... Acknowledgment.
- Page 333 to 335—2 $\frac{1}{2}$  pages.—Frontenac, Parkman..... Acknowledgment.
- Page 336 to 340—4 $\frac{1}{2}$  pages.—Battle at Beauport, Garneau and Hawkins. Acknowledgment.
- Page 341— $\frac{1}{2}$  page.—Episode of siege of 1775, from the journal of Dr. Senter ..... Acknowledgment.
- Page 342 to 343—1 page.—Siege of 1775, Judge Henry..... Acknowledgment.
- Page 348 to 350—2 pages.—Siege of 1759, Chevalier Johnstone ..... Acknowledgment.
- Page 352 to 361—9 pages.—Whale story, published in *Forest and Stream*, January 27, 1876, over the *nom de plume* of "Stadacona"..... No acknowledgment.
- Page 362—1 page.—Blanc.

Page 363 to 364—2 pages.—Appendix,  
“ Extract from my Gaspé journal  
8th June 1877,” said extract  
consisting of a piece of verse  
written by some one else..... Acknowledgment.

Page 365 to 380—16 pages.—Advertisements,  
table of contents, &c.

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This is a total of 215 pages of stolen or borrowed property. It will be readily admitted, I fancy, that in a book containing 380 pages, this is a pretty fair proportion. I do not pretend to say that I have succeeded in unearthing *all* the plagiarisms of which Mr. Lemoine is guilty; to do so would require at least a year of unceasing labor, and, as they say in French, *le jeu n'en vaut pas la chandelle*. Several pages that I have not included in the above *table of contents*, bear, on their very face, proof that they have been appropriated by Mr. Lemoine from the writings of others. For instance, he speaks of the *Canada* side of the Baie des Chaleurs. This was evidently written before Confederation.

As the case now stands, I opine that there is nothing at all “startling” or at least wonderful in the rapidity with which Mr. Lemoine’s books appear.

“The pen, it has been said, is mightier than the sword.” Mr. Lemoine, I think, should paraphrase this old saw in the following manner: “A pair of scissors are more serviceable than a quill.”

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The “clippings” of which Mr. Lemoine’s book is composed can be divided into three categories. Firstly, we have, on a remarkably extended scale, ordinary quotations duly credited to the authors from whom they

are borrowed. Against this nothing can be said, except that it renders the "rapidity" with which Mr. Lemoine's books are given to the public less startling than it appeared to the enthusiastic youth of the *Canadian Monthly*. Secondly, there are sundry sentences, whole pages sometimes, enclosed in quotation marks, but the name of the author from whom they are taken is carefully omitted. To say the least, this is a strange proceeding. The third category comprises unscrupulous plagiarisms. On this point it is my painful duty to dwell at some length.

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Persons worthy of credence had often hinted to me that Mr. Lemoine had a "strong weakness" for literary piracy. I always refused to entertain such an idea, but on turning over the pages of the *Chronicles* I was greatly shocked by what I there discovered.

Several chapters of the *Chronicles* are to be found, almost word for word, in Mr. Faucher de St. Maurice's latest work : *De Tribord à Babord*, and the only acknowledgment is in the *table of contents* and in one or two foot notes. The headings of the chapters make no mention of Mr. Faucher's name. An example will better illustrate this novel manner of borrowing. Here is the heading of chapter XIV as it appears on page 111 :—*Loss of the French Frigate "La Renommée," on Anticosti, 14th Nov. 1736.—A Winter of Horrors, Starvation and death.—A Missionary's career.* In the table of contents this is how the title of the same chapter reads *Loss of the French Frigate "La Renommée," on Anticosti, 14th Nov. 1736.—A Winter of Horrors, Starvation and Death. A Missionary's career* FROM MR. FAUCHER'S SUMMARY.

Let those conversant with the code of literary honour decide whether such an acknowledgment justifies Mr. Lemoine in making a *verbatim* translation of some of Mr. Faucher's most interesting passages.

Nor is this all. Speaking of the wreck of the French frigate *La Renommée*, Mr. Lemoine informs his readers that what he gives them "is a translation *from* a narrative written by Father Crespel." By this incorrect sentence, Mr. Lemoine evidently wishes to convey the idea that what he lays before the public is a translation *of* a narrative written by Father Crespel. The truth is, as I have already stated, that Mr. Lemoine translates the narrative penned by Mr. Faucher, and not the one written by Father Crespel. This can easily be seen by confronting the three versions. Here is an example :

"THE CHRONICLES OF THE ST. LAWRENCE," PAGE 112.

"Cool and collected, in the midst of danger, captain Freneuse quietly gave orders to have the long-boat hung to the davits. Twenty persons jumped in ; as the last was entering, one of the blocks gave away. Half of the inmates were precipitated *in* the sea—the rest clung to the side of the boat, dangling in mid air. Without moving a muscle, &c.

"DE TRIBORD A BABORD," PAGE 90

Impassible au milieu de tout ce chaos, M. de Freneuse donna l'ordre de hisser la chaloupe sur ses portemanteaux. Vingt personnes embarquent ; mais au moment où la dernière prend place, un des palans manque, et la moitié de cette grappe humaine est précipitée dans l'abîme pendant que ceux qui restent se cramponnent aux plats-bord de l'embarcation, suspendue en l'air. Pas un muscle n'a bronché sur la figure de M. de Freneuse, etc.

This is how Father Crespel relates the same incident. (See *Magasin du Bas Canada* Vol. 1, page 124) :

"Après avoir mis notre canot à la mer, nous suspendîmes la chaloupe aux palans, afin d'embarquer plus aisément tout ce que nous avons, et gagner plus vite le large, pour nous garantir de la mer, qui nous aurait peut-être poussés contre le vaisseau, si nous ne nous en étions éloignés promptement. Nous y entrâmes au nombre de 23 personnes, et dans l'instant la boucle du palan de devant manqua ; la chaloupe resta suspendue par derrière et de ceux qui étaient dedans plusieurs tombèrent dans la mer, d'autres restèrent attachés aux barres, et quelques-uns, par le moyen des cordages qui pendaient le long du navire remontèrent dans le bord. Le capitaine, voyant ce désastre etc. "

"CHRONICLES OF THE ST. LAWRENCE." PAGE 131.

Labor and fishing establishments had made of Miscou, a spot advantageously known all over New France. During the open season of summer, a regular packet, the ship *Ange Gardien*, plied between Miscou and Quebec. The summer months were spent in fishing and trading; each fall, the fishing crafts returned to France; in the spring, the catch of the autumn previous was sent from France to Quebec, the population of the city being too scanty to furnish men for this branch of commerce, &c.

"DE TRIBORD A BABORD." PAGE 320.

Le travail et la pêche avaient fait alors de Miscou un endroit que tout le monde connaissait dans la colonie. Pendant la belle saison un navire, l'*Ange-Gardien*, faisait un service régulier entre cette île et Québec. L'été se passait à pêcher et à faire la traite; puis à l'automne les équipages regagnaient les côtes de France, emportant avec eux ces cargaisons de morue qui revenaient l'année suivante pour être mangées à Québec, car disent les relations du temps, " nous n'avons pas encore assez d'hommes en cette ville pour descendre à cette pêche," &c.

This *verbatim* translation runs through several pages and the only thanks Mr. Faucher gets is the following little foot note: "I am indebted to Mr. Faucher's work for several *particulars* concerning Miscou."

Here is still an other example of Mr. Lemoine's utter want of scruple in matters literary:

"THE CHRONICLES OF THE ST. LAWRENCE," PAGE 183.

Its (Prince Edward's Island) healthiness is unquestionable; the Asiatic scourge, cholera, has never yet penetrated there. The summer heat and winter cold is less than that of Quebec, though, according to Bayfield, the spring would be retarded by the icy breath of the north wind blowing from the Gulf. This scientific naval officer sets forth that the south-west breezes which, in June, July and August, veil in murky fog, the Bay of Fundy, change to tepid and delightful emanations, in their passage through the strait of Northumberland and over the island and then again turn to dank, penetrating mist, as they career seaward towards Labrador.

"DE TRIBORD A BABORD." PAGE 262.

Les conditions météorologiques de l'île sont de ces meilleures. Elle n'a jamais été visitée par le choléra asiatique; ses étés sont moins chauds que ceux de Québec et ses hivers moins froids. Néanmoins, l'amiral Bayfield assure que le printemps est retardé par les vents du nord qui viennent du Golfe, et ce marin expérimenté a constaté que les vents du sud-ouest, qui, en juin, juillet et août, couvrent d'un épais brouillard la baie de Fundy, deviennent une brise tiède et délicieuse en passant par le détroit de Northumberland et sur l'île, puis reprennent leur haleine humide et brumeuse, à mesure qu'ils gagnent le large et courent vers le Labrador.

The lines that I have just quoted from the *Chronicles* are a slavish translation of a passage from Mr. Faucher's work, and yet there is absolutely nothing to indicate that they are borrowed.



Mr. Faucher's account of the loss of Sir Hovenden Walker's squadron is also made use of by Mr. Lemoine in a most unceremonious manner, and with but very little if any real acknowledgment. Mr. Faucher's notes, which must have cost him no little research, are coolly appropriated by the author of the *Chronicles*. It is difficult to say which is the meaner, the purloining of another's labor or the theft of his ideas. Both are utterly despicable.

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Let us now behold Mr. Lemoine copying Mr de Bellefeuille's writings with an equal *sans gêne* and even less acknowledgment.

MR. LÉMOINE, PAGES 137, 141  
AND 142.

"On the marshy shores of the county of Gloucester, in New Brunswick, fifty miles from Miramichi, twenty five miles south of Caraquet, there stands, close to a small stream, a village bearing the name of the latter, (What English ! ) Its aspect is sullen, lonely, desolate in the extreme. On one side, the seething waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, rarely enlivened by a sail ; on the other, a low, naked monotonous sea-shore, dotted here and there with a few fishermen's huts.....

"The first settlement on the Miramichi River, in New Brunswick, took place shortly after the treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, by (Again, what English ! ) the French, chiefly Basque, Norman or Breton colonist. Under the administration of Cardinal Fleury strenuous efforts were made to promote this enterprise, to that degree that a French gentleman M. de Beauvoir, was sent out as Intendant by France. He founded at the north-west entrance of the Miramichi River a small town which still bears his name ; the Island facing the town, also known as Beauvoir Island, was strongly fortified, &c."

MR. DE BELLEFEUILLE, "REVUE  
CANADIENNE," AUGUST 1870.

"Sur les bords fangeux du comté de Gloucester, dans le Nouveau Brunswick, à 50 milles de Miramichi, à 25 au sud de Caraquet, baignés par les eaux du Golfe St-Laurent généralement si pures, près d'une petite rivière s'élève un village qui en porte le nom. La situation qu'il occupe est triste au suprême degré. . . . D'un côté, les eaux basses et troublées de la mer sur lesquelles une voile vient rarement égayer la vue ; de l'autre, la ligne monotone d'un littoral plat, dépouillé, diversifié seulement par quelques cabanes de pêcheurs.....

"Les premiers établissements sur la Rivière Miramichi, Nouveau Brunswick, furent faits bientôt après le traité d'Utrecht, en 1713, par des sujets de la France, principalement des Basques, des Bretons et des Normands. Sous l'administration du Cardinal Fleury, de puissantes mesures furent mises en œuvre afin d'encourager et faire avancer ces établissements qui en peu de temps progressèrent si bien qu'un M. Pierre Beauvoir fut envoyé de France comme intendant. . . . Il bâtit une petite ville à la pointe de terre qui porte son nom jusqu'à présent, à l'embouchure de la branche nord-ouest de la rivière Miramichi. L'île en face, connue aujourd'hui sous le nom de l'île Beauvoir, était fortement défendue, etc."

After having copied Mr. de Bellefeuille in this servile manner, Mr Lemoine condescends to admit, in a general, off-hand way, that he has borrowed much information from him !

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Of all the many plagiarisms of which Mr. Lemoine is guilty, the following is, perhaps, the most revolting and the most impudent. The author of the *Chronicles* sets himself deliberately to work to *deceive* his readers and make them believe that he acknowledges what he borrows ; whereas, in reality, he perpetrates an outrageous literary theft. This is how he proceeds. Under the heading : " A canadian cottage," we read, page 216 :

" Do you see," writes Abbé Casgrain, " on the summit of yonder hillock that dainty white dwelling, with its thatched roof barn, furnishing such a pleasant contrast with the surrounding emerald fields. That is a Canadian cottage."

As may be seen, this paragraph is enclosed in quotation marks as it should be were the quotation brought to a close : inverted commas at the beginning and at the end. An honest writer, wishing to continue the quotation, would not have put inverted commas at the end of the first paragraph but would have placed them at the beginning of each succeeding one. Notso Mr. Lemoine. He carefully omits them at the beginning of the six following paragraphs, translated word for word from l'Abbé Casgrain, and contents himself with quotation marks at the end of the sixth paragraph. Now, no ordinary reader, not accustomed to the crooked ways of tricksters, could possibly imagine that the whole intervening space, comprising a page and a half, between the first paragraph duly closed and this stray quotation mark, is filled up

with stolen property. Yet such is the case, as may be seen by the following example :

THE " CHRONICLES OF THE ST. LAWRENCE. " PAGE 216.

The stranger, unfamiliar with our Canadian farmer, and bent on assimilating him to the peasant of old France, his sire, would commit an egregious error.

More enlightened, especially more religious, the *habitant* is far above the French peasant in his style of living.

Compared to the French peasant he of Canada is a real little *prince*—quite independent in means—living on his sixty or eighty *arpents* of land, enclosed by a cedar fence—here, all his daily wants are abundantly supplied, &c.

" LEGENDES CANADIENNES " PAGE 36.

L'étranger qui, ne connaissant pas l'*habitant* de nos campagnes, croirait pouvoir l'assimiler au paysan de la vieille France, son ancêtre, se méprendrait étrangement.

Plus éclairé et surtout plus religieux il est loin de partager son état précaire.

En comparaison de celui-ci, c'est un véritable petit *prince*, parfaitement indépendant sur ses soixante ou quatre-vingts arpents de terre, entourés d'une clôture de cèdre, et qui lui fournissent tout ce qui lui est nécessaire pour vivre dans une honnête aisance, &c.

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The foregoing is tricky ; here is something audacious. By glancing over the tabulated statement given above, the reader will observe that Mr. Lemoine has transferred whole chapters of Pye's *Canadian Scenery* to his *Chronicles*, sometimes with, oftener without acknowledgment. This work being very scarce, he thought, no doubt, that he was safe in doing with it as he pleased ; he had struck a " Big Bonanza " and, to do him justice, he made it " pan out " well, to use a cant phrase of the western miners. Fortunately for me, though unfortunately for him, I succeeded in procuring a copy of this book and I am thus in a position to " show up " Mr. Lemoine in a new and still more interesting occupation. We have seen him as a translator, let us now gaze upon him as a transcriber :

"THE CHRONICLES OF THE ST. LAWRENCE " PAGE 280.

A remarkable feature connected with the Rock is its being the resort, during the summer months, of vast numbers of sea-fowl, who make their nests on the summit, and in July and August,

"PYE'S CANADIAN SCENERY " PAGES 13 AND 14.

A remarkable feature connected with the Rock is its being the resort, during the summer months, of a vast number of sea-fowl, who make their nests on the summit ;—and in July

when the young are fledged, and the parent birds have returned in the evening from their foraging excursions, the whole surface of the rock literally swarms with thousands of birds, making a most discordant noise, which can be heard at a distance of several miles, and in dark nights or foggy weather, warns the mariner of his proximity to Percé. *Our captain (Davidson), formerly of the steamer Lady Hood, subsequently of the Secret*, has often gratified his passengers by firing a gun whilst passing. This causes a perfect cloud of gulls, gannets, cormorants, &c., to rise and set up the most discordant and unearthly yells and screams imaginable, &c.

and August, when the young are fledged, and the parent birds have returned in the evening from their foraging excursions, the whole surface of the Rocks literally swarms with thousands of birds, making a most discordant noise, which can be heard at a distance of several miles, and in dark nights or foggy weather warns the mariner of his proximity to Percé. *Captain Davidson of the steamer "Lady Head"*, has often gratified his passengers, by firing a gun whilst passing. This causes a perfect cloud of gulls, gannets, cormorants &c., to rise and set up the most discordant and unearthly yells and screams imaginable, &c.

This, and many other passages from the same book, are NOT CREDITED AT ALL; *there is not even an inverted comma to shew that they are borrowed from another work.* It is downright literary piracy and nothing less. The slight alteration with regard to Captain Davidson proves plainly enough that Mr. Lemoine meant to palm off this description as his own and that the absence of quotation marks is not accidental. Again I say, it is a deliberate, premeditated literary theft that should forever banish him who committed it from the society of gentlemen.

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There is a facetious side to everything, even to plagiarism. The *Chronicles* of the St. Lawrence are divided into two parts, part second being a rehash of part first. To prove this, let us compare page 22 with page 273 :

"THE CHRONICLES OF THE ST.  
LAWRENCE," PAGE 22.

The beautiful Bay of Port Daniel suddenly meets the eye ; a splendid and varied panorama lies before you. As you descend the mountain on a bright summer afternoon, an interesting and amusing scene often awaits you. The innumerable fishing boats having returned, men, women and children are busily engaged in landing, splitting and conveying the fish to the staves. At the mouth of Port Daniel River, we have again the usual lagoon, &c., &c.

"THE CHRONICLES OF THE ST.  
LAWRENCE," PAGE 273.

The beautiful Bay of Port Daniel suddenly meets the eye, and a splendid and varied panorama lies before you. As you descend the mountain on a fine summer afternoon, an interesting and amusing scene often presents itself.

The fishing boats having just returned, men, women and children are all busily engaged in landing, splitting and carrying the fish to the staves. At the mouth of the Port Daniel River we have again the usual lagoon, &c., &c.

The ludicrousness of the thing will be better appreciated when it is known that this description is taken from Pye. On page 22, it appears as Mr. Lemoine's own composition ! Whereas on page 273 it is carefully enclosed in quotation marks !

When Mr. Lemoine *does* acknowledge the source whence he borrows, he occasionally gives credit for words that the author he pretends to quote from never wrote. Examples :

“PYE AS QUOTED BY MR. LEMOINE  
IN “THE CHRONICLES,”  
PAGE 34.

“The lugubrious change of name is reported to have been caused by the total loss thereon of an English man-of-war, or transport, carrying troops, forming portion of Sir Hovenden Walker's squadron.”

“PYE'S CANADIAN SCENERY,”  
PAGE 35.

The lugubrious change of name is said to have been caused by the total loss thereon, in 1711, of an English man-of-war, or transport, carrying troops. Some portions of a wreck, &c.

On page 161, Mr. Lemoine publishes a note, purporting to be a literal quotation from Mr. Geo. Stewart's work, *The Great Fire of Saint John*. In reality it is nothing of the kind.

MR. GEO. STEWART AS QUOTED BY  
MR. LEMOINE.  
“THE CHRONICLES” PAGE 161.

“The Victoria,” that Grand hotel which was St. John to every traveller that came here, was opened for business, July 1871, under the following board of Directors : Otis Small, Esq., President ; John Magee, *A. Chipman, Smith*, John McMillan and William F. Harrison, Esq. Like dozens of other public edifices it was destroyed by the awful fire of 20th June, 1877.”

“THE GREAT FIRE OF ST. JOHN”  
BY GEO. STEWART,  
PAGE 63.

The “Victoria” that Grand Hotel which was St. John to every traveller who came here—that mansion pile of brick and stone—was no longer the standing monument of the city's enterprise. An engine might have saved it but the engine was not there.

This spacious hotel was commenced by a joint stock company in 1870, and was built on the corner of Germain and Duke streets. It was opened for business July 1871 with B. T. Creagan for manager and the following Board of Directors :—Otis Small, Esq., President, John Magee, *A. Chipman Smith*, John McMillan, F. Harrison, Esqrs. The hotel building cost &c.

It has been noised about—murder will out—that the *Chronicles*, when they first came out of the printer's hands, were not exactly what we now find them. The first *table of contents* made no more mention of Mr. Faucher's name than do the headings of the chapters. Some charitable person, I presume, remarked to Mr. Lemoine that this was a very audacious proceeding. Whereupon this worthy gentleman thought it would be wise to "cover up his tracks" a little, and his fertile brain soon wrought out a novel way, charming in its simplicity, of overcoming the difficulty. He suppressed the first table of contents, and replaced it by a second, containing some acknowledgment of the source whence certain chapters had been borrowed. This accounts for the discrepancy already noticed between the *Table of contents* and the heading of chapter XIV. The same discrepancy exists with regard to chapter XVI.

There is another contradiction which proves beyond all doubt that the table of contents, as it now appears, is not the one given to the printer. On the last page of the book, at the end of the *table*, we read, in a note, the following words: "*note for page 111*—since I prepared, chiefly from the French narrative of Mr. Faucher, in "*tribord and babord*," the short summary I gave of Father Crespel's sufferings on *Anticosti*, &c." Now, as we have already seen, Mr. Lemoine distinctly states, on page 111, that what he lays before the public "*is a translation from a narrative written by Father Crespel*." Thus it is evident that this note, as well as the *table of contents*, is an after thought, intended solely to hide, as much as possible, the plagiarisms of which the author is guilty. In reality it only serves to shew to what contemptible means an unscrupulous writer can resort in order to extricate himself from a disagreeable position.

Moreover, I have in my possession material proof that the first *table of contents* has been tampered with. There

lies before me a copy of the *Chronicles* in which, by an unlucky oversight, the binder *has left two pages of the original table!*

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Having pretty effectually plucked Mr. Lemoine of his borrowed and stolen feathers, let us now take a glimpse at this interesting literary bird in his own plumage.

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## PART II.

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### MR. LEMOINE IN HIS OWN FEATHERS.

Learn to write well, or not to write at all.

(Dryden.)

Charles Lever observes, in one of his works, that none of the great geniuses who, from time to time, have dazzled the world by the brilliancy of their achievements, ever possessed a thorough knowledge of several languages. I do not vouch for the accuracy of this statement, but I am convinced of the utter untruthfulness of the following proposition which the unwary might deduct from the premises laid down by the Irish novelist: "The less a man is versed in the science of languages, the greater is his genius." For were such the case, we would needs proclaim Mr. J. M. Lemoine a genius of vast proportions, this gentleman's linguistic acquirements being of the simplest kind. It would be giving very stale news to the author of *Maple Leaves* to inform him that he is a man of wonderful parts, but such an announcement might startle the rest of mankind.

Mr. Arthur Buies has conclusively shown in his *Petites*

*Chroniques* that Mr. Lemoine is a complete stranger to the French language, and I am of opinion that his acquaintance with the Anglo-Saxon dialect is not sufficiently familiar to breed contempt. This I propose to demonstrate later.

The witty *chroniqueur* to whom I have just alluded has described, in a happy and characteristic manner, the enviable position which Mr. Lemoine occupies as a French and English author. When Mr. Lemoine writes an English work his readers charitably pass over his many short comings because, say they, it must not be forgotten that he is a Frenchman. On the other hand, those who peruse his French productions remark good-naturedly that it is no wonder that his works are somewhat faulty for the excellent reason that his education is exclusively English. And thus Mr. Lemoine has heretofore escaped all adverse criticism.

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The gushing reviewer of the *Canadian Monthly*, the same young gentleman who is *startled* at the rapidity with which Mr. Lemoine plies his trusty scissors, solemnly informs us that Mr. Lemoine "does *not* adopt the sober style of Hallam, but rather inclines to the eloquent and highly coloured manner of Macaulay." Comparisons, it is said, are always odious, but this one, it will be admitted, is particularly offensive.

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With these few prefatory remarks let us now glance through those pages of the *Chronicles*, few though they be, which are unquestionably the product of Mr. Lemoine's elegant pen.



Ignorance of things most elementary is often displayed by Mr. Lemoine. Thus, in one of his numerous translations of passages from Mr. Faucher's work, he renders *le rivièrè du Canada*, the name given to the St. Lawrence in former days, by a *Canada river*, instead of *the river of Canada*. In this sentence not only does Mr. Lemoine sin against history, he also maims the English language. A *Canada river* is outlandish. In another place he speaks of the *Canada expedition*, for the expedition against Canada. I am aware that substantives may be used as adjectives to qualify other substantives, as an *apple orchard*, a *hay loft*, a *Philadelphia lawyer*; but I think Mr. Lemoine is the first to extend this rule to the names of countries. What would be thought of expressions such as these? An *England city*, a *France village*, a *Hungary general*. A *Canada river* may grate less harshly on the ear than the foregoing examples, but it is quite as incorrect.

Mr. Lemoine speaks of "a stupendous wall of conglomerate, which appears as though it had been *upheaved* by *another Atlas*." Wherefore *another Atlas*? Would not the original Atlas of whom we read in heathen fables have answered the purpose? The old gentleman, it is true, was supposed to devote himself exclusively to *upholding*; from the most reliable accounts he does not appear to have done any *upheaving* at all. That is probably the reason why Mr. Lemoine finds it necessary to introduce *another Atlas* equal to the occasion. It is what the Americans would call a "new departure" in mythology.

Expatriating on leprosy, in what he evidently considers a very learned manner, Mr. Lemoine remarks:

"This scourge appears to have been known long before the Mosaic era: we find it first mentioned in the fourth chapter of *Exodus*. God tells *man* to put his hand in his bosom, and when he *pulls* it out, it is "leprous like snow" — *leprosus instar nivis*."

Now Mr. Lemoine ought to know that this command

was not given to *man* in general, but to one particular man, Moses ; and had he written *leprosam* instead of *leprosus* he would have shown more respect for latin grammar.

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The author of the *Chronicles* though a copious, is not a very accurate translator. Thus, page 133, in one of his many passages borrowed without acknowledgment from *De Tribord à Babord*, he commits a slight error. Mr. Faucher says that Father Quentin *perdit la santé* at Miscou, whereas Mr. Lemoine tells us that the Rev. gentleman *recovered his health there, after having to bury his assistant.*

Whilst we are on the subject of translations, allow me to impart to the public a most interesting discovery that I made during my analysis of the *Chronicles*.

The "ruling passion" with Mr. Lemoine is to copy something, everything, no matter whom and no matter what. And this passion is so strong upon him that he takes the trouble to translate his own precious productions. Thus he gives us an English version of his wonderful description of Murray Bay, written in what he calls French. Here it is in part :

" THE CHRONICLES OF THE ST.  
LAWRENCE," PAGE 234.

Of all the picturesque parishes on the margin of our ocean like river, which innumerable swarms of tourists visit every summer for salt water bathing, none will interest the lover of sublime landscapes more than Murray Bay. One must go there to enjoy the ruggedness, the grandeur of nature, the broad horizons. You may not find there the waving wheat fields of Kamouraska, the shelving verdurous shores of Cacouna or Riviere du Loup or Rimouski : — grateful retreats for our citizens during the dog days, but

" L'ALBUM DU TOURISTE,"  
PAG. 355 ET 356.

De toutes les pittoresques paroisses sur le littoral de notre grand fleuve, où vont s'abattre, chaque été, nos innombrables essaims de touristes, pour "prendre les eaux," nulle plus que la Malbaie ne saurait intéresser l'amatant des paysages grandioses. C'est à la Malbaie qu'il faut aller pour jouir de l'âpre, de la grande nature, des larges horizons. Ce ne sont plus les beaux champs de blé de Kamouraska, les coquets et verdoyants coteaux de Cacouna ou de Rimouski, où le *langoureux* citadin va retremper ses forces durant la canicule ;

you will enter *in* communion with savage unconquered nature and view points yet more majestic than those of the coasts and walls of Bic. In the interior, precipice on precipice; *impénétrable gorges in the projections* of the rocks; peaks which lose themselves in the clouds, and among which the bears wander in July. . . . . a *Byronic nature* tossed about, *heaped up, in the north*, far from the ways of civilized men. . . . .

If, then, you wish to taste in their full features, of the dreamy solitudes of the shores, of the caves, of the great forests, overshadowing *Pointe à Pique* or *Cap à l'Aigle*, or to capture by hundreds the frisky speckled beauties of the remote Lake Gravel, *you must own a good eye, a well nerved arm, a supple leg.*

c'est une nature sauvage, indomptée, des points de vue encore plus majestueux que ceux que présentent les côtes et les murailles du Bic.

Précip ce sur précipice, *gorges impénétrables dans la saillie des rochers*; pics qui se perdent dans la nue, où grime, en juillet l'ours noir, . . . . . une nature *byronienne*, tourmentée, entassée dans le nord, loin des sentiers de l'homme civilisé. . . . . Si donc vous voulez savourer à grands traits la rêveuse solitude des plages, des grottes, des grands bois de la Pointe au Pic ou du cap de l'Aigle, ou capturer par centaines les frétilantes truites du lointain lac Gravel, *il faut avoir bon œil, bras nerveux, jambe souple, etc.*

I am loth to say which of the two versions is the more ridiculous; certain it is that the translation is no improvement on the original, and that both are worthy of the author. Mr. Buies has, in his *Petites Chroniques*, laughed, to his heart's content, at this absurd twaddle and laid bare all the silliness thereof. I shall merely draw attention to the unspeakable inanity of the last sentence. Why, in the name of all that's wonderful, must one *own a good eye, a well nerved arm, a supple leg*, in order to taste of *the dreamy solitudes of the shores*? That is one of those things which surpass the ken of mortal man.

But it must not be supposed that Mr. Lemoine is accurate even in the translation of his own writings. He goes so far as to flatly contradict himself.

"THE CHRONICLES," PAGE 235.

"L'ALBUM DU TOURISTE," PAGE 338.

1 The foot of the invader, in 1759, est at Murray Bay, as well as on the remainder of the north shore, up to Quebec, a *deep impress*.

La Malbaie *ne parait pas avoir joué un rôle bien marquant pendant le siège de 1759*, bien qu'il y eut une descente.

The *Album du touriste*, written for French readers, was not considered by Mr. Lemoine sufficiently emphatic for an English public, so the *deep impress* was brought into requisition.

This fawning disposition is often noticeable in Mr. Lemoine's English writings. Thus, in his *adaptation* of Mr. Faucher's account of the loss of Sir Hovenden Walker's squadron, every thing that might hurt English susceptibility is carefully omitted.

The author of the *Chronicles* scoffs sometimes at the Catholic Church, in the hope of tickling Protestant ears. Had he been addressing Catholic readers he would certainly never have written such sentences as the following :

"The Church, too, struck them (the lepers) off from the communion of the faithful, so that they escaped the hangman's hempen halter *to prepare for the torments of the damned.*"

A discussion arises among the passengers on board the steamer *Gaspé*, as to what is the best cure for seasickness. Some favor "hot Scotch" others recommend "Irish potheen." Whereupon Mr. Lemoine remarks : "Here, as well as at the Vatican, *the* (gallicism) opinions were divided, as on the question of infallibility."

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Mr. Lemoine endeavors to persuade his readers that the English language has no secrets for him, and to that end he affects modes of expression peculiar to the Anglo-Saxon tongue. The result is that he makes some very amusing mistakes. For instance, on the first page of his book we read :— "Blockade runners are expected to show at times a *pair of heels*," He meant to say, no doubt, a *good* pair of heels (1).

(1) In a paper published lately in the *Canadian Monthly*, Mr. Lemoine speaks of *beef moccasins*!

For loose, careless and ungrammatical sentences recommend me to the *Chronicles*, they are as

Thick as autumnal leaves that strew the brooks  
In Vallombrosa.

EXAMPLES :

“ Before reaching it (the bay) one has to cross the Malbaie stream—a good river for salmon and trout fishery—by means of a scow.” That scow is decidedly in an awkward position ; it might easily have been placed nearer the water, thus. “ Before reaching it, one has to cross, by means of a scow, the Malbaie river, a good stream for salmon etc. ”

“ Dr. Bryant’s excellent ornithological report of the Bird Rocks, which however, possibly, will be relished by students of natural history *alone*.” This should read : “ be relished *only* by students, etc.,”

“ The judge of Bonaventure district holds *his* court each year at the Magdalen Islands. ”

One would be led to suppose that the honorable judge is a sort of itinerant potentate.

“ Captaine Jesse Armstrong.....was, in company with the *Granicus* and a dozen other craft at Pointe des Monts a few days before the accident *which* befel those vessels. ” That *which* is a gallicism and should be struck out, or if it must be retained, the sentence should read : “ before the accident which befel those vessels happened, ”

“ Of all hateful emanations from the bottomless pit to afflict poor mortality. ” “ *Which* or *that* afflict, ” would be English. ”

“ In October, 1843, it took me seventeen days to *reach*, in a coaster of 43 tons, the *Victoria* Capt. Basile Cayen, of Islet, *from* Point St. Peter, Gaspé, *to* the then spacious

harbor of the Palais, Quebec." A person can easily reach a place in a vessel, but it requires very long arms to reach *from Gaspé to Quebec*, even in seventeen days.

" To the simple denizen of the country a trip to Gaspesia or the Maritime Provinces was a serious undertaking and never lightly talked about. *Its duration to and through*, at the shortest, covered four or five weeks ". Why not have said : " A trip to and through Gaspesia." That, at least, would have been comprehensible.

" The Skating Rink of St. John, 'tis admitted, is the finest in the Dominion ; it cost \$14,500, and can accommodate 3000 or 4000 people. *The form is circular—well lit up at night, and the directors, energetic men.*" That reads like a badly worded advertisement of some faro-bank in the " Far West."

Some of Mr. Lemoine's transitions are remarkable, not to say startling. Thus, after quoting six pages from Dr. Kelly on *Mirage*, he introduces *Cacouna* in the following graceful manner :

" This much for mirage, let us proceed" !

" *To the faithful hailing from Rome, La Bonne Ste. Anne is a talisman*, a spot sacred, as much as Notre-Dame de Loudres and Paray-le-Monial are to French and English pilgrims." The word *talisman* is a misnomer ; as to *the faithful hailing from Rome*, I am quite at a loss to know ~~what~~ is meant thereby and I am inclined to believe that Mr. Lemoine himself is no wiser than I.

" Baie des Chaleurs has not only its teeming rivers, Cascapedia, Bonaventure, Port Daniel, Ristigouche, &c., many picturesque headlands, storm-beaten capes, *enchanted* (more likely *enchanting*) islands sleep on the heaving bosom of its waters." This is a very rambling sentence indeed. A bay cannot be said to *have* rivers, and by no

stretch of the imagination can headlands and capes be represented as sleeping on the bosom of the waters.

" Even old Ocean . . . seems here to have doffed some of *her* wonted majesty of mien. " No one possessing the genius of the English language, no one having even an uneducated *English* ear could have written *her*.

Mr. Lemoine often makes use of inappropriate and ridiculous terms : " The *murmuring* St. Lawrence. " Miscou *shorn* of its inhabitants, " Crews wrecked on the island. " Vessels are *wrecked*, crews are *shipwrecked*. " The English man-of-war *rode* another gale in safety. " It should have been : " *rode out* another gale, &c. " " Paspebiac, with its *roadstead* running out to a point in the Bay. " He undoubtedly meant to say *headland*, as a roadstead cannot *run out to a point*. In another place he speaks of an *erratic* wanderer. That is tautology, for, as every one but Mr. Lemoine knows, *erratic* means *wandering*.

The author of the *Chronicles* is of a scientific turn of mind, and he is extremely fond of exhibiting to the public gaze his inexhaustible fund of antiquarian lore. He never fails to give us the *true* meaning of all the crooked Indian names that abound in the regions of the Lower St. Lawrence. Sometimes, however, his science is rather muddled. Thus he informs us, page 152, that the word *Restigouche* means " a river that divides like a hand. " That is poetical. Mr. Lemoine should have held fast to that definition. Nevertheless, twelve pages further on, he tells us that the same word Restigouche signifies *Broad river*. This little *contre-temps* is clearly traceable to the bee-like disposition of our author who draws his sweets from too many flowers, but who, unlike the bee, cannot convert these sweets into true honey.

One word more and I will draw my too lengthy remarks to a close. Mr. Lemoine's style of writing is an odd medly of pompous, bombastic, grandiloquent phrases

and trivial not to say low expressions ; there is nothing natural, graceful or harmonious to be found in the whole work we have been examining (quotations excepted.) Speaking of four famished men he says that " the greatest caution was necessary to *bring them around.* " And again, a missionary, who succumbs to fatigue and malaria, is represented as *having to give in.*

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I might continue my strictures on the *Chronicles, ad infinitum*, but enough has been said, I fancy, to justify me in summing up as follows :

Mr. J. M. Lemoine is a poor though slavish translator, an extensive borrower, an unscrupulous plagiarist and a wretched scribbler. At best, he is but a maker of books, he is not an author.





