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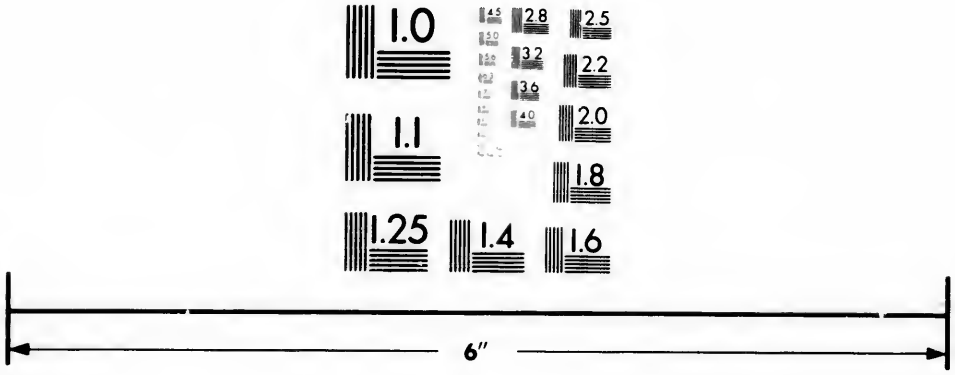

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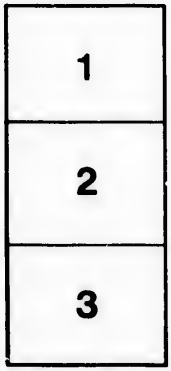
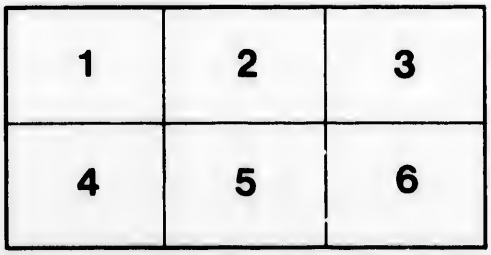
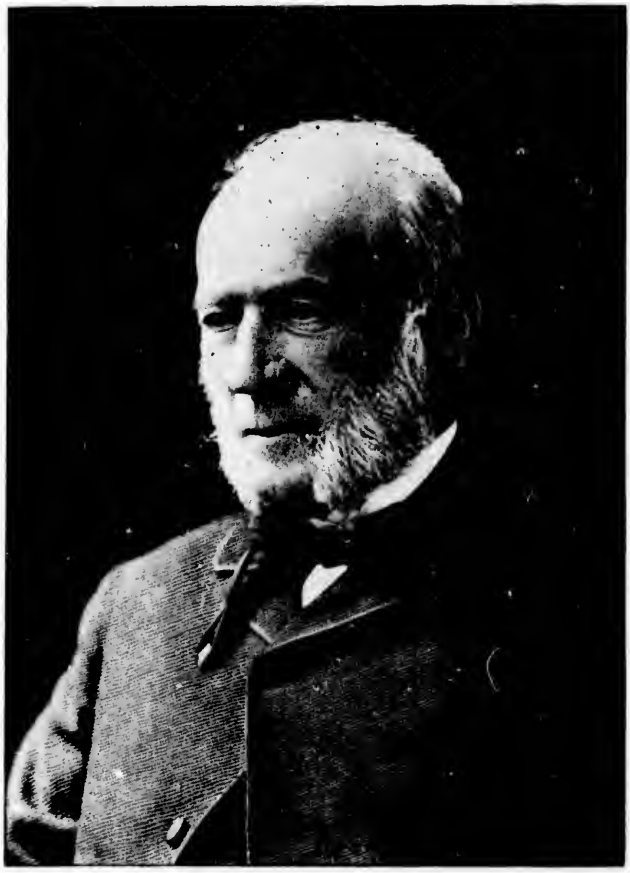




Sir James M. LeMoine,

A Family Memoir



SIR JAMES MCPHERSON LEMOINE.

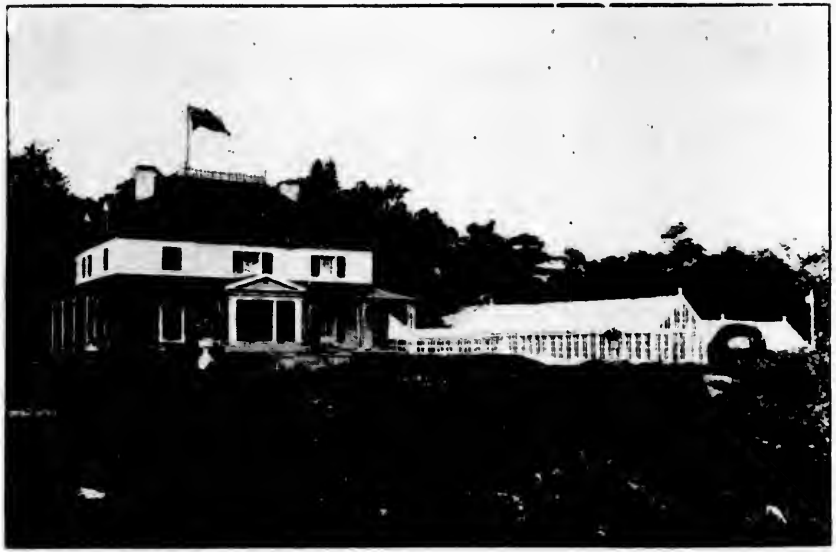
(From Rose's *Cyclopædia of Canadian Biography*, *Toronto*, 1888.

"James M. LeMoine, sixth son of Benjamin LeMoine and Julia Ann McPherson, was born in the City of Quebec, on the 24th January, 1825. His father, a genial and polished gentleman of the old French school, was a partner in the exporting house of Stuart and LeMoine. Reverses in trade caused the firm to suspend about 1825. Mr. Daniel McPherson, *Seigneur* of Crane Island, P. Q., their grand-father, adopted two of the eleven children then born, Louis Duniere and James; the latter of whom, the subject of this notice, assumed his name and was known as James McPherson LeMoine. Daniel McPherson, born at Fort William, near Inverness, Scotland, had settled at an early age in Philadelphia, which he left with several other United Empire Loyalists, about 1783, to reside at Sorel, later, known as Fort William Henry, a noted U. E. Loyalist settlement. After marrying there a Miss Kelly, he removed to Douglastown, Gaspé, also a U. E. L. settlement. Having amassed wealth, he purchased in 1803, from the heirs de Beaujeu, the rich and picturesque seigniory of *Isle aux Grues* and *Isle aux Oies*, P. Q., where he spent twenty-six years of his life. This early home of the historian, with its Scotch teachings of industry and self reliance, together with the healthy example of the venerable Daniel McPherson, who closed his career, at St. Thomas, P. Q., in June, 1840, at the age of 87 years, seems to have ever remained uppermost in the mind and remembrance of the subject of this sketch, and to have tinctured his views in after life. The paternel ancestor of J. M. LeMoine hails from old France; the LeMoine or LeMoyne family—for the name is spelt both ways among the descendants—is one of the oldest and most distinguished in the colony from its dawn. Jean LeMoyne, the progenitor, was a son of Louis LeMoyne, and was born at Pitres, near Rouen, in Normandy, in 1634. Jean LeMoyne, a near relative of Charles LeMoyne, or LeMoine, of St. Remi, close to Rouen, was a man of importance in his day; he figures in old titles as the *seigneur* of three fiefs or seignories: La Noraie, Ste. Marie and Gastineau. He held lands near Three-Rivers and owned an island, "Ile des Pins"—the island of pines—which furnished him the addition to his name. He was called LeMoine des Pins, to distinguish him, probably, from his illustrious and warlike relative, Charles LeMoine de Longueuil, who became Baron de Longueuil and, on two occasions, acted as Governor of Canada. The Abbé Verreau, in his work "L'Invasion du

Canada, 1775," exhibits a descendant of Jean LeMoyne, styled Jean Baptiste LeMoine des Pins, as a sturdy volunteer of Montreal, repelling manfully the invader of the soil, in November, 1775. He was, however, taken prisoner by Brigadier Richard Montgomery's continentals, at Longueuil, carried across the border and underwent a protracted captivity, Congress refusing to exchange him "as he was of too much importance," it was added, "in his own country." His health was ruined by his captivity; his wealth, dissipated by the upheavings of the invasion. The warlike old *gentilhomme*, too proud to sue for indemnity from the British Government for the losses incurred, in upholding the standard of Britain, closed his long career, near Quebec, in 1807. (*Le Canadien* newspaper, of 10th January, 1807, in his obituary notice, pays high compliment to his devotion to King and country. "A victim," it adds, "of the the patriotic ardor which hastened his death.") Young James LeMoine remained under the protective roof of his maternal grandfather at St. Thomas, until August, 1838, when he was sent to the *Petit Séminaire de Québec*, for his collegiate course. This seat of learning, he left in 1845, after studying *Belles-Lettres*, under an accomplished French Professor from the College of Saint Stanislas, at Paris, the Abbé P. Bouchy. He was subsequently indentured for five years as a law student to the late Hon. Judge Jos. Noel Bossé, at that time, one of the leading barristers of the Quebec Bar. In 1850, our subject's name was added to the roll of practicing barristers. In 1854, he became a partner of the law firm of Kerr & LeMoine, and continued so, for several years. Mr. LeMoine has also occupied for years the highest position for the Province of Quebec, in the Dominion Inland Revenue, as inspector. He married in 1856 Miss Harriet M. Atkinson, a daughter of Edward Atkinson, of York, England and a niece of the late Henry Atkinson, the old proprietor of Spencer Wood.

The historian has, since 1867, been a Lt.-Col. in the sedentary militia, having met with rapid promotion, on account of the earnest interest he took, in preparing, like his forefathers, to repel the invader when the "Trent" outrage threatened to summon Canada's sons to arms. The subject of this sketch is a bi-linguist; true to his double origin, it seems hard to decide at times, which is with him the more powerful charmer "Old Embro" or *La Belle France*.

Two subjects appear to have engrossed his leisure hours, for his has ever been a busy professional or official life, namely: Canadian History and Popular Ornithology. He has had the good fortune to handle Canadian history and its burning questions of race and creed, &c., with such impartiality that rarely have his views been challenged. His style is clear-cut, direct and easy, but sometimes it is brusque. Not



SPENCER GRANGE, QUEBEC

The Manor of Sir James M. LeMoine.

unfrequently impassioned, now and then it is marked with traces of his double origin; this frequently adds to the piquancy of the narrative. One wonders how and when he can have found time to treat of so many subjects; one also frequently regrets in his works the absence of that indispensable auxiliary to the scholar—a good proof reader." (p.p. 528-30.")

Chosen President of the French Section of the Royal Society of Canada, of which he was one of the original founders, he was unanimously elected President of all the sections in 1894 and Knighted by Her Majesty, the Queen, on 1st January 1897, for literary service rendered to Canada.

A Notice of the Author of "Maple Leaves"

BY

WM. KIRBY,

Author of the "Annals of Niagara," "The Golden Dog," "Canadian Idyls," &c.

"My first acquaintance with the subject of this notice dates as far back as 1863, when I happened to be in Quebec, watching the progress of a bill introduced in Parliament, previous to Confederation.

To beguile a leisure hour, it so happened I had purchased a volume styled "Maple Leaves—*a budget of historical, legendary and sporting lore*, by J. M. LeMoine." I was so captivated by the dramatic interest infused into two out of several sketches it contained, *Château Bigot* and the *Golden Dog*, that I vowed to a friend, I would make them the groundwork of a Canadian novel. Thus originated my *Chien d'Or* romance.

Few have had such opportunities as Mr. LeMoine for studying the lights and shades of the old Province of Quebec. His early training, social *entourage*—love of books—antiquarian tastes and familiarity with the English as well as with the French idiom; his minute explorations by sea and by land of every nook and corner of his native province and even beyond it, the whole jotted down day by day in his diary, naturally furnishes him with exceptional facilities to deal with Canadian subjects in a light or in a serious vein.

Two attractive departmens seem to have engrossed his attention from the first, the study of early Canadian history and of popular ornithology.

In fact one of the first additions he made to his charming rustic home, at Sillery, near Quebec, was the erection of an aviary for the friends of his youth, the birds of Canada, and an ample museum for the preservation, by the art of the taxidermist, of specimens of the Canadian *avi-fauna*.

It may not be out of place to follow this indefatigable writer, in his rather extended literary career.

Struck, in 1860, with the lack of any French work to guide Canadian youth attracted to the study of bird-life, Mr. LeMoine published that year, in two volumes, a manual on popular ornithology; and, in order to allure the student to this healthy and delighthful pursuit, he imparted to those volumes a strong, fragrant literary aroma. Whether it was

due to the novelty of the subject or to the contents of the work, it disappeared from the book stores in less than one year.

In 1862, he helped on a literary *confrère* in a small literary venture by contributing an interesting article, under the caption "*The Legendary Lore of the St. Lawrence.*"

The next year, with the view of promoting the study of Canadian annals, he began a valuable series which ran over many years, under the well-remembered name of *Maple Leaves;* the first was devoted to general subjects, legends and quaint old customs; the second, to rescuing reliable records of Canadian battle-fields and siege narratives; the third depicted chiefly the old manors and scenery round Quebec. That year, he found time during his leisure moments to write, for *l'Opinion Publique*, a French essay on Sir Walter Scott, as poet, novelist, historian; a lengthy review of the arctic explorations of Franklin, McClure, Kane, McClintock; he also published a treatise on the river and deep-sea fisheries of Canada, which elicited warm encomiums from the French press.

In 1865, General McLellan, having alluded disparagingly in a speech he made, to the memory of Montcalm, for his supposed approval of the Fort George massacre in 1757, Mr. LeMoine took up the cudgels for his favourite hero and confuted by Bancroft's, the Abbe Piquet's narrative and by others, the statement made by the luckless warrior of Bull Run renown: this booklet, entitled *La Mémoire de Montcalm Vengée*, met with hearty recognition in Canada and in France.

Various effusions of an historical character, fell from the writer's prolific and versatile pen, in 1870, in *Stewart's* Quarterly Magazine, *New Monthly Magazine, Belford's Review, Forest and Stream* and *La Revue Canadienne.* In 1873, a selection of his best Canadian sketches, were published, under the old familiar name of *Maple Leaves*, 1873. The same year also ushered in his valuable French work, *l'Album du Touriste.*

Quebec Past and Present, edited in 1876, is probably as a book of reference, the most useful historical volume ever put forth by the author. It embodies the whole history of the ancient capital from its foundation up to 1876; the edition is exhausted long since. Possibly, no literary composition of Mr. LeMoine, by the reminiscences it recalled to him, was more pleasant to indite than the publication, in 1878, under the title of *Chronicles of the St. Lawrence*, of his multifarious excursions to the kingdom of herring and cod, on the Gaspé coast.

The bulky volume of 550 pages, styled *Picturesque Quebec* from the mass of quaint information disseminated through its pages about the old city's streets, squares, eminent inhabi-

tan's fortifications, etc. completed the history of the romantic city : the literary research involved in this work was too heavy a task for one man alone to undertake, and I for one, was happy in being apprized by letter, that a much needed rest, was granted the author, after his long official career and that in July he was to sail per, "S. Moravian" for a short tour to Europe, from whence he brought back with a re-invigorated frame, an ample fund of information, reminiscences and anecdote which he subsequently freely used in the series of lectures he was called on to give before the *Literary and Historical Society* of Quebec, of which he had been five times re-elected president. Long before this, his writings and researches had obtained recognition on behalf of scientific societies in Canada and abroad. The *Société d'Ethnographie* of Paris conferred on him a diploma, as *Délégué Régional* at Quebec ; he was made a member of the *Société d'Histoire Diplomatique*, presided over by the duc de Broglie ; his name was inscribed on the register of the *New England Histori-Genealogical Society ;* on that of the *State of Wisconsin Historical Society ;* of the *Société Historique* of Montreal ; of the *Genealogical and Biographical Society* of New York ; of the *Institut of Ottawa ;* on the roll of the *Institut Canadien* of New York ; on that of the *Royal Society of Canada ;* of the *Historical Society of Pennsylvania ;* of the *Massachusetts Historical Society ;* of the *Société Américaine de France ;* of the *New-Brunswick Historical Society ;* of the *Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia ;* of the *American Historical Association*, Saratoga ; of the *American Philosophical Society*, Philadelphia ; of the *Society of Canadian Literature*, Montreal ; of the *Folk-Lore Society* of Montreal ; of the *Natural History Society* of Montreal ; of the *Audubon Society* of the United States ; of the *Trinity Historical Society*, Dallas, Texas. His last diploma, was one recently *received* naming *him* President of the Quebec *Committee of the Alliance Scientifique* of France, composed of J. M. LeMoine, President, Honb. Judge A. B. Routhier, Jos. Edmond Roy, F. R. S. C., Dr. N. E. Dionne, F. R. S. C., Ernest Gagnon. In 1882 he became a corresponding member of the *American Ornithologists Union*.

In 1885, at the instance of a distinguished French naturalist, M. Lescuyer, Mr. LeMoine's name was put forward to attend in Vienna the *Permanent International Committee of the European Ornithologists* organized under the auspices of His Royal Highness, the archduke Rodolphe and presided by a celebrated European *savant*, Dr. Rodolphe Blasius ; a similar distinction having been offered to the Washington ornithologist, Dr. Hart Meriam, which he accepted.

However the call of duty kept Mr. LeMoine at home ; he

was thus deprived from participating in a most distinguished honor, tendered to very few on this continent.

Probably the distinction, he prized the most, was his selection by the Marquis of Lorne to organize, with the assistance of Mr Faucher de St. Maurice, the French Section of the Royal Society of Canada, and his election as the first president of the section, in May 1882.

The *Transactions* of this learned association since 1882, each year, contain an elaborate essay of Mr. LeMoine on some department or other of Canadian history.

In 1887, he read, by special invitation, before the Canadian club of New York, a memoir: *Madame de Champlain, Madame de la Tour, Mdlle de Vercheres, the Canadian heroïnes.*

An intimacy of many years standing and access had to his papers, &c., has furnished me with accurate data about the historian of Quebec.

I recall to memory, no more pleasant episode in his literary career than the surprise prepared for him by the *elite* of the Quebec gentry, whose homes Mr. LeMoine had so happily and so graphically described, when they presented him, in 1882, at the Garrison club, during a champagne lunch, a Dominion Flag, for the new tower of Spencer Grange, with a suitable address.

In May 1894—Mr. LeMoine was unanimously chosen President of the four sections of the Royal Society, the highest position in literature or science, open to a Canadian. *

The Montreal Star of the 30th May 1894, mentions it as follows:

PRESIDENT LEMOINE.

* "Among Canadian writers no one is more favorably known than Mr. J. LeMoine, the newly-elected president of the Royal Society of Canada. He belongs to one of the oldest Canadian families, being a descendant of Jean LeMoyne, who was a seigneur of three fiefs, Ste. Marie, la Noraye and Gastineau, and a near relative of Charles LeMoyne, Baron of Longueuil. His House at Spencer Grange, is a literary man's paradise; here Mr. LeMoine has entertained some of the most eminent writers and scholars of our time. Dean Stanley, Charles Kingsley, Sala, Howells, Gilbert Parker, Professor Henry Drummond, Chs. Hallock, J. W. Bengough, Goldwin Smith, Sterry Hunt, Chs G. D. Roberts, Geo. M. Fairchild, F. Marchand, Judge Routhier, Wm, Kirby, John Reade, Abbé Casgrain, L. H. Frechette, O. Cremazie, P. Chauveau, the historians Garneau and Ferland have all partaken of the hospitalities of Spencer Grange; the late Francis Parkman, was a frequent visitor, and in the preface to some of his works acknowledges the valuable aid rendered him by Mr. LeMoine. For over thirty years hardly a year has passed that we have not to welcome some new product of his pen in French or English. His best known works are Ornithologie du Canada (2 vols.) Les Pêcheries du Canada, Maple Leaves, L'Album du Touriste, Chronicles of the St. Lawrence, Quebec Past and Present, Monographies et Esquisses, and Picturesque Quebec, all works of historical value. In addition to these, Mr. LeMoine has contributed numerous articles to the

In 1887, our author found means to steal many hours from his researches on Canadian history, to write an attractive volume on Canadian sports ; as there yet was no such work in French, in Canada, *Chasse et Pêche* filled in a *lacuna*, long felt and deplored among the votaries of gun and rod.

In the Maple Leaves series published in 1879, Mr. LeMoine gives us in the *Explorations of Jonathan Oldbuck*, extracts from his Diary of Travel, highly instructive and occasionally brimful of quaint humor.

The last series of these sketches, which appeared in 1894, intituled : *Canadian History, Literature, Ornithology*, are by far the most valuable series of the *Maple Leaves*."

From [*The Land we live in*]

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magazines and the daily press. Imbued with a deep love for the history and traditions of his country, his writings are replete with graphic narratives of incidents that have occured during the old regime, as well as stories of Canadian life and character of more recent date. To tell the story of our past is the chief delight of his life, and he tells it truthfully, and impartially; he jars no feelings of race and creed, for Mr. LeMoine's ideal is a Canada whose people shall be neither English nor French, but Canadian. In conclusion, we may say that the Royal Society of Canada could not have selected one more deserving of the honor of that distinguished body than the historian of Quebec."

WORKS

OF

SIR JAS. M. LEMOINE, F. R. S. C.

ENGLISH.

Legendary Lore of the Lower St. Lawrence (1 vol. in-32). 1862
Maple Leaves, (1st Series) (1 vol. in-80)..... 1863
" " (2nd Series) (1 vol. in-80) 1864
" " (3rd Series) (1 vol. in-80)..... 1865
The Tourist's Note Book, (1 vol. in-64) by Cosmopolite... 1870
The Sword of Brigadier General Montgomery, (A memoir) (1 vol. in-64) 1870
Trifles from my Portfolio, (New Dominion Monthly)..... 1872
Maple Leaves, (4th Series)..... 1873
Quebec, Past and present 1876
The Tourist's Note Book, (second edition)... 1876
Chronicles of the St. Lawrence, (1 vol. in-80)..... 1878
Historical Notes on Quebec and its Environs..... 1879
The Scot in New France, a Lecture before L. & H. Soc'ty 1880
Picturesque Quebec, (1 vol. in-80) 551 pages..... 1882
Historical and Sporting notes on Environs of Quebec... 1889
Meaple Leaves, (5th Series) Explorations in Eastern Latitudes..... 1889
Maple Leaves, (6th Series)—History—Literature and Ornithology, 500 pages..... 1894

FRENCH.

L'Ornithologie du Canada, (2 vol. in-80)..... 1860
Etude sur Sir Walter Scott, poëte, romancier, historien.. 1862
Navigateurs Arctiques,—Franklin,—M'Clure,—Kane,—McClintock 1862
Les Pêcheries du Canada, (1. vol. in-32)..... 1863
Mémoire de Montcalm, Vengée, (1 vol. in-32) 1865
L'Album Canadien..... 1870
L'Album du Touriste..... 1873

Conférence sur l'Ornithologie, devant l'Institut Canadien, Quebec..... 1874
Notes Historiques sur les Rues de Québec..... 1876
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DIPLOMAS

HELD BY

SIR JAS. M. LEMOINE,

Past-President Royal Society of Canada.

L'Institut Canadien, Québec 1849
Literary and Historical Society, Quebec..... 1860
La Société Historique de Montréal..... 1860
Historical Society of Pennsylvania.. 1870
New England Historic—Genealogical Society..... 1875
State Historical Society of Wisconsin..... 1877
Institution Ethnographique de France..... 1880
Massachusetts Historical Society..... 1880
Société Américaine de France..... 1880
New Brunswick Historical Society..... 1880
Société Royale du Canada—French Section..... 1882
Royal Society of Canada—English Section..... 1882
American Historical Association..... 1882
The Audubon Society of New York..... 1886
Paris, Société d'Histoire Diplomatique..... 1887
Institut Canadien of New York..... 1888
The Society of Canadian Literature, Montreal..... 1890
Natural History Society of Montreal..... 1890
American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia..... 1890
International Ornithological Congress of Buda Pesth, Hungary..... 1891
New York Genealogical and Biographical Society..... 1891
Trinity Historical Society, Dallas, Texas..... 1891
Lincoln County Historical Society, Wiscasset, Maine... 1894
American Folk-Lore Society, Montreal..... 1894
Quebec Studio Club..... 1897