

The Seigniorial Manor of the First *Seigneur* of Beauport, 1634.

(To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle.)

DEAR SIR,—I have pleasure in laying, with your permission, before the members of the Literary and Historical Society, through your columns, the enclosed communication received this day, with the plate and inscription to which it relates, from the widow of the late Col. B. C. A. Gogy, of Darnoc, Beauport. It sets forth the recovery, from the ruins of the Beauport Manor House, of a lead plate, affording a written record of the laying of the foundation stone, on the 25th July, 1634, of the historical homestead of the fighting *Seigneurs* of Beauport,—the Gifart, the Juchereau and the Duchesnay. The *fac simile* and description of the inscription, on comparing with the lead plate itself, forwarded for examination by Mrs. Gogy, are so accurate, that they leave little for me to say. Nay, I should be inclined to detect here the hand of an antiquarian, had I not strong suspicions that Mrs. Gogy's amanuensis in this case, is her clever daughter, Miss Gogy.

The massive old pile alleged to have been the headquarters of the Marquis of Montcalm, during the siege of Quebec, in 1759, and in which many generations of Duchesnays and some of Col. Gogy's children were born, became the prey of flames in 1879, 'tis said, by the act of a vandal,—an incendiary; thus perished the most ancient stronghold of the proud feudal Lairds of Beauport—the stone manor of Surgeon Robert Gifart—the safe retreat against the Iroquois of the warlike Juchereau Duchesnays, one of whose ancestors, in 1645, had married Marie Gifart, or Giffard, a daughter of the bellicose Esculapius from Perche, France,—Surgeon Robert Gifart. Grim and defiant the antique manor, with its high-peaked gables, stood in front of the dwelling Col. Gogy had erected, at Darnoc, in 1865: it rather intercepted the view to be had from this spot of Quebec. One of the memorable landmarks of the past, it has furnished a subject for the pencil of Col. Benson J. Lossing, author of the "American Revolution," and "Life of Washington," who, during his visit to Quebec, in July, 1858, sketched it with others, for *Harper's Magazine*, where it appeared, over the heading "Montcalm's Headquarters, Beauport," in the January number, 1859, page 180.

Whilst the deciphering of some of the letters I. H. S.—M. I. A. at the top of the inscription are likely to exercise the ingenuity of our Oldbucks and Monk-barns, to whose intelligent care I shall leave them, the plate itself and its inscription will furnish to the student of history an indefeasible proof of the exact spot, and of the date, when and where stood the oldest of our seigniorial manors,—that of Robert Gifart, on the margin of the *ruisseau de l'ours*, at Beauport, in 1634.

J. M. LEMOINE,
President.

Literary and Historical Society's Rooms, 5th April, 1881.

N.B.—Mrs. Gogy has kindly consented to leave on our table, during the week, for the inspection of the curious, this suggestive old plate.

J. M. LeMoine, Esquire, President Literary and Historical Society, Quebec:

BEAUPORT, 26th March, 1881.

The tablet found in the Manor House of Beauport by some workmen, last summer, and only recently restored to the proprietors, is a circular plate of lead or pewter much injured by the fire which consumed the building.