

communications to the MORNING CHRONICLE of the 12th and of the 21st January last invited students of Canadian history to discuss the question submitted by your English antiquarian friend, Col. R. E. Carr, asking for their views as to the existence of an organized priory of the Knights of Jerusalem and Malta, at Quebec, under the French *regime*.

At the outset, I expressed the grave doubts I entertained as to the existence, in this city, of such an expensive edifice (having cost £40,000 stg.) as that mentioned in the Italian version of the *American Gazetteer*, printed at Leghorn in 1763. Among the several learned disquisitions called forth by the enquiry, one, especially, bearing the signature of Mr. J. E. Roy, of Levi, by its fullness and accurate details, deserved mention. Mr. Roy wrote in French: I attempted to present your readers with an English summary of his able paper, whilst reviewing the whole case.

Mr. Roy, very properly quoted a passage from Knox's *Journal* of the siege of Quebec in 1759, in which occurs *inter alia*, an account of the public edifices churches, colleges, monasteries, convents, &c., which this generally accurate observer had noted, in the city, after the capitulation. One of his statements is certainly calculated to arrest attention, Knox speaks of "a stately and unfinished house for the Knights Hospitallers,"—on which seemingly Mr. Roy based his assertion: "that the foundations of a house of the Order were once laid on the rock of Quebec, but that a Priory of the Order never existed in the colony." Until additional proof be produced, I also am inclined to agree with him. No organized Chapter ever existed here—at most, as Knox observes, "a stately and unfinished House for the Knights Hospitallers." Could Knox have mistaken the *Hotel Dieu Convent—les Hospitalliers de l'ordre de Saint Augustin*, founded by the pious *Duchesse D'Aiguillon* in 1639, at Quebec, for Knights Hospitallers. This is unlikely and the Italian translator of the *American Gazetteer* rendering it as "*Cavallieri Girrosodemipitani*?"