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Relation sur le Canada 1695, 1696, and various papers on French Canada . . . . .	1 packet.
Papers relating to Louisbourg, 1745, and extracts from Journal de Franquet, 1752 . . . . .	1 portfolio.
Papers relating to La Vérendrye, from originals in Dépôt des Cartes de la Marine. Various autograph papers on Acadia, etc. . . . .	1 packet.

Very truly yours,

F. PARKMAN.

[Indorsed: "List of Papers given to Mass. Hist. Soc., 11 April, 1892, by F. P."]

The President said he had received a letter from Major James Walter, reaffirming the genuineness of the so-called Sharpless-Washington portraits;<sup>1</sup> and on his suggestion the letter was referred to Mr. A. C. Goodell, Jr., for examination.

Mr. HENRY W. HAYNES, from the second section, on being called on, read the following paper: —

A few Words more about Leif Ericson and the Norse Sagas.

A committee of this Society was appointed in November, 1887, to consider the question of the alleged discovery of America by the Northmen; and at the following meeting their report was presented. In it they stated their conclusion to be that "there is the same sort of reason for believing in the existence of Leif Ericson that there is for believing in the existence of Agamemnon, — they are both traditions accepted by later writers; but there is no more reason for regarding as true the details related about his discoveries than there is for accepting as historic truth the narratives contained in the Homeric poems."<sup>2</sup> The grounds for this conclusion were said to be that "such details, if true, now rest upon no stronger foundation than a tradition of four hundred years." The report also suggested as an alternative that "*all* of these details are a romantic fiction, as *some* of them plainly are." Since this report was presented, the researches of the late Arthur Middleton Reeves (whose tragical death all students of history deplore) have tended to reduce the period of tradition to three hundred years.<sup>3</sup> Your committee, however, do not think that their argument as to the truth of the multi-

<sup>1</sup> See 2 Proceedings, vol. iii. pp. 179-187.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. vol. iv. p. 43.

<sup>3</sup> The Finding of Wineland the Good, p. 23.