

THE NAME QUEBEC.

Referring to the disastrous landslide in Quebec, the *Canadian Gazette* (London) has the following paragraph, which is reproduced with grateful acknowledgment of the flattering reference to *Canadiana* :—

“In speaking of this calamity, the *Daily Chronicle* reminds us that the very name of Quebec should have suggested to its easily impressed inhabitants the imprudence of building at the foot of the Citadel cliff, since it is derived from an Indian word signifying “beware of the rock!” Is the *Chronicle* quite sure of its ground here? There is, we fancy, some measure of doubt on the point, for not a few antiquarian inquirers tell us that the city derives its name from the compression of the great river St. Lawrence at this spot, the word “Quebec” signifying in the native Indian tongue, “the strait.” No doubt Mr. Wm. J. WHITE could throw some light on the point in the interesting collection of Canadian historical notes which he publishes monthly at Montreal under the name of *Canadiana*.”

“Beware of the rock!” is a refreshing novelty in this well-worn discussion. The following authorities are generally accepted :—

Narrative and Critical History of America, Vol. iv., p. 114, Note 2. For the various theories regarding the origin of the name Quebec,—whether it is derived from a Norman title, as Hawkins maintained; or from an exclamation of the first beholders of the promontory “Quel-bec;” or from the Algonquin,—see Hawkins' *Picture of Quebec*; Brasseur de Bourbourg, *Histoire du Canada*; Ferland, *Histoire du Canada*; Garneau's *Canada*, 4th ed. i. 57; Bell's translation of Garneau's *Canada*, i. 85; Warburton's *Conquest of Canada*, i. 62; Shea's edition of *Charlevoix*, i. 260.

The fullest note is, probably that of the Abbé C. H. Laverdière, M.A., of Laval University, the Quebec 1870