

A list of all the works sent during 1885, will be found at the end of this report.

Attention has been called, in previous reports, to the destruction of valuable documents, which had come into the possession of private families, through relations who had occupied official positions or held posts in the Government of the country. The personal investigation I was enabled to make has proved that the loss of valuable documents was even greater than had been supposed. Papers which would have clearly explained the secret history of some of the most important political events in the different Provinces, have been ruthlessly destroyed by fire, or sold for waste paper. In some cases the cause of the destruction has been want of room, in others a desire to have the house tidy. I desire again to call attention to this subject, there being now a place where papers can be securely deposited, if after examination they shall be found worthy of preservation.

At note A will be found a register of the Christenings, Marriages and Burials of the Protestant inhabitants of Montreal, from the original in the hand writing of the Rev. D C. Delisle, Rector of the Anglican Parish of Montreal. The register extends from 5th October, 1766, to 5th September, 1787, but is not complete, for the reasons stated by Mr. Delisle in his preliminary remarks.

At pages xxxiv and xxxv, of the report for 1884, is a discussion respecting the boundaries between Nova Scotia and the easternmost of the American States, by Col. Morse, of the Royal Engineers, in 1784. It is almost superfluous to say that the portion of the Province of Nova Scotia whose south-western boundaries are coterminous with those of the United States is now the Province of New Brunswick. Some observations by Col. Gotther Mann, Commanding the Royal Engineers, which were written in 1802 (Note B), should be read in conjunction with the report of Col. Morse. The observations, though brief, are of importance, and point out in clear terms the danger of leaving the question of boundaries unsettled, the country having narrowly escaped another war with the United States, from the disputes arising out of undefined limits. The document is among the military correspondence, C 76 p 30, and is published in full.

In the "Constitutional History of Canada," by Samuel J. Watson (Toronto, 1874), is the following note in relation to petitions in 1774, for a House of Assembly: "The name which occurs oftenest in all the proceedings to obtain a House of Assembly, is that of Zachary Macaulay, father of Great Britain's greatest historian" (p 22 note). The statement having caused some newspaper controversy, inquiries were made to this office for information, which were answered by letter. As it is, however, one of those assertions which gain currency and, from the carelessness of writers, copying one from the other, take their place in historical works as facts, it seems desirable to place correct information on record.