

Heroic Endurance and Patience of a Noble Historian



FRANCIS PARKMAN visited Quebec frequently while preparing his remarkable series of volumes on French and English campaigns in North America. The object of his visits was mainly to search historical records, to study the routes taken by the rival forces and their Indian allies in these wars, to examine the battlefields and to familiarize himself with the scenes of the famous exploits of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Parkman is well remembered in "ye Ancient City," and was a welcome guest in some of the homes of its prominent citizens. Twice he honored the writer by calling at his old residence in D'Aiguillon street, and met there some of the old coterie of friends. He also frequently visited Spencer Grange, whose genial host he highly esteemed and to whom he was indebted for many important historical data. Since those days, Time, great chronos, has wrought many changes and his sickle has severed many ties. Among those whom Parkman met then, at D'Aiguillon street, poor Faucher de Saint Maurice and Joseph Marmette have passed to unknown shores.

The historical works of Francis Parkman attract and fascinate and en-

rapture the reader. They arouse and stimulate one as much as the most exciting and spirited novel. The marvellous drama of the life and deeds of the people who figured conspicuously during two centuries in North America, he describes graphically and illuminatingly. He takes the romantic incidents and tragic blood-curdling events of those epochs, their glorious military feats and acts of prowess, their striking ecclesiastical personages, the long and perilous tramps through the forests, sieges, battles and conspiracies, the fiendish cruelties of the Indians and their acts of treachery, in all their brutal and appalling nakedness, and uses them for the background of his historical pictures. He does this with such skillful artistry that they stand out in clear relief, defiling before our eyes, in endless procession, in all their significance and import. The realism is impressive and enthralling. We hear the clashing of swords, the rattle of musketry and the boom of the canon, resounding through his pages. Indeed the ghosts of the past come trooping and eddying about the reader, laden with the atmosphere of those days. In fine through the magic of his pen he gives life to the momentous phases of the border warfare of two centuries; he causes to flare forth gorgeously the beautiful, picturesque

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