

a swine's snout. Dr. Von Ruville has read widely in the printed sources, and has dipped into the MSS.; in the Newcastle Papers especially his reading is fairly thorough; when nothing more than painstaking stupidity is needed, his work is of value; he has verified the dates of the writing and of the receipt of a number of letters, and for that we owe him thanks. But on colonial matters he is not only obscure but inaccurate. For example, in 1774 was passed the celebrated Quebec Act. This quasi-establishment of the Roman Catholic religion, and the great extension of the boundaries of the French province angered the Americans, and Chatham, their spokesman in the House of Lords, opposed the Act. What does Dr. Von Ruville say of his speech?

"What gives this tolerably insignificant speech an interest for us is the circumstance that Chatham never even mentions (völlig unbeachtet lässt), the clause in the bill which largely affected the great quarrel between the Mother Country and her colonies, namely, the new frontier delimitation." (Von Ruville, iii, 281, trans. iii, 311, orig.).

Now I am no believer in the theory that a biography should be a panegyric; I am rather of the opinion that the character of a man or of a movement is best described by a sympathetic enemy; but a biographer should at least be fair. We have but a very imperfect report of this speech of Chatham, comprising in all about 700 words, or rather less than two pages of an ordinary book. Yet in that imperfect report we find: "He was likewise very particular on the bad consequences that would attend the great extension of that province. . . . He exposed the train of fatal mischiefs attending the establishment of popery and arbitrary power in that vast and fertile region now annexed to the province of Quebec, and capable of containing, if fully peopled, not less than thirty million souls. . . . He pathetically expressed his fears that it might finally lose the hearts of all his Majesty's American subjects." Thus in a report of 700 words, 78 are taken up with the subject which Dr. Von Ruville says is not even mentioned; those 78 twice contain the expression "he was likewise very particular on," "he exposed the train of fatal mischiefs," sentences which evidently sum up long paragraphs of the speech; his words contain one of the earliest prophecies of the