

gates failed to ascertain the extent of the archives in each office—the staff of officers charged with the cataloguing, classifying and copying of the same: the work they had performed. It was stated that two gentlemen had been sent to England to examine the papers relating to Canadian affairs in the British Museum, the Public Record Office and other places; some hundred of volumes of M. S., such as the Haldimand and Dorchester Papers, were noticed; some examined, and two reports published by the House of Commons, Ottawa, on this subject, one in 1873, the other in 1874, (which reports are now submitted.) The gentlemen sent to England were: the Rev. abbé Vereault, advantageously known for his historical notes, and Mr. Bremner, a clerk of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. It was stated in the course of the debate by Dr Miles, the Historian of Canada, and representing the Education *Bureau* of the Province of Quebec, that the delegates to England unwittingly went over the same ground twice, and that the public would be satisfied with nothing short of a thorough examination of the Canadian archives now deposited in London, in the British Museum, the *Public Record Office* and in the War Office, with a view first to having prepared a full catalogue of contents for publication. A gentleman, quite an authority on an important branch of archives—the Church Registers—the abbé C. Tanguay, favored the Convention with a very elaborate address on this subject. In verity, there are few departments in our public records, of more daily interest to citizens of every denomination in the Dominion. The Church Registers in our Courts of Justice make or unmake fortunes every day, by settling questions of inheritance, bequests, let alone the invaluable light they throw on questions of race and population. Several laws have been passed with the object of providing means to secure Church Registers of marriages, births and deaths—against accidents by fire.