

The book at once took rank with students, and the admirable texture of M. Masson's essay and notes cannot be praised too much. He is hard at work on the second part, and we may expect to have, before the close of next year, at least three more volumes.

The Abbé Casgrain, who has written a goodly-sized shelf-ful of books, is engaged just now in preparing for the press, the vast collections of manuscripts which he secured during his last journey to France. These comprise eleven very large volumes, which will be published at the expense of the Quebec government, and when completed will form one of the most notable store-houses of historical papers ever published. Last month the Abbé published the Letters and Journal of DeLevis in two sumptuous parts.

M. Napoléon Legendre, who is poet, essayist and critic, is writing a series of articles for the *Electeur*, under the title of "Entre-Nous." They treat of letters, music, the drama, art and science. Politics this graceful writer does not touch, though if he would he could. One of these days a volume of "Melanges" will likely be made from these bright papers.

Dr. Frechette, who writes for the *Electeur* also, will collect his fugitives into a volume.

Arthur Buies, one of the most sprightly of the French-Canadian litterateurs, whose "Chroniques" rank among the best productions of that sort which fall from French pens, has lately turned his attention to the geography of the province. From him we have had a book about the Saguenay, and another on the Lake St. John district. He is preparing a third volume of his series, which will deal with the historic, physical, industrial and economic features of the valley of the Ottawa. These books have a value quite their own, and though M. Buies is a highly imaginative writer, his facts are generally reliable, while his manner of telling his story is delicious and graphic.

Pamphile Le May is writing a new drama. We have had three from him already, and his last one, "Rouge et Bleu," was performed on the stage, not long since, to a delighted and

much amused audience at the Academy of Music, by a company mainly drawn from his own family. Happy the father whose children are able to interpret with skill and intelligence the fruit of his genius!

"A Rhyming Dictionary," by Charles Baillaigé, and a "Dictionnaire du Langage des Nombres"—a marvellous performance, and representing a quarter of a century of study and investigation—by Boucher de Boucherville, brother of the famous leader of the administration which Governor Letellier dismissed from his Council in 1878, conclude Quebec's recent contributions to French book-making. Of course, pamphlets have been issued by the score. Throughout the whole of this activity, however, the curious point remains to be made: French-Canadian women seldom write or print books. To their husbands and sweethearts is left that task. Why? Ah, that is another question.

GEORGE STEWART, JR.

A CONFERENCE ON COPYRIGHT.

A most important discussion on the merits of the copyright bill passed at the last session of the Canadian Parliament, took place at Ottawa on Tuesday, September 25, 1889, between Messrs. D. A. Rose and A. F. Rutter, representing the Canadian Copyright Association; Mr. F. R. Daldy, representing the British Copyright Association and the Colonial Office; and Sir John Thorp and Mr. John Lowe, representing the Canadian Government. The British publishers do not like this new Canadian copyright bill, and Mr. Daldy was sent out to show Canadians just how bad it is—for the British publishers. At the same time we must acknowledge the courtesy of the British Association in sending such a gentlemanly representative as Mr. Daldy to discuss the question with us; he certainly made the best of a bad job. A full and fair discussion never can do any good cause harm, and it is quite certain that this three hours' conference between representative British and Canadian authorities will do much good in the long run.