

fore-front of the second class ; but then it is only a few years since we made a beginning.

We cannot commence our review of Canadian fiction with the "History of Emily Montague," published in 1769. Even if it was written at Quebec the authoress was an English-woman not a permanent resident ; nor even with "St. Ursula's Convent" for, although that story was published at Kingston in 1824, no one seems to know who wrote it nor does there appear to be a copy now in existence.* We must commence with Major Richardson's "Écarté," published in New York in 1829. In 1833 he published "Waconsta," a tale of Pontiac's war. It is really a good novel and contains an excellent picture of the siege of Detroit. The same author published at Montreal "The Canadian Brothers," in 1840, and afterwards four or five other novels in New York. In 1833 two members of the Strickland family, Mrs. Moodie and Mrs. Traill, came to Canada and settled near Peterborough. They kept up their literary activity during their lives. Mrs. Moodie wrote many books, and, from 1852 to 1860, she produced a number of fair novels. At the same time Mrs. Leprohon was writing stories. Her first novel appeared in the "Literary Garland," in 1848, and she followed it with a number of others.

The Hon. P. J. O. Chauvean, in 1852, led the way in French novel writing with "Charles Guérin," and was followed in 1863, in "Les Anciens Canadiens," by Philippe Aubert De Gaspé, which has recently been translated and published in New York. It is thought to be the best French Canadian novel, although it was its author's first book, and was written when he was past seventy. Then followed Bourassa, Marquette, Beaugrand, Gérin-Lajoie and others, but no important work was produced.

* Kingsford (Early Bibliography, p. 30) observes that "it is stated" that Miss Julia Beckwith, of Fredericton, wrote this book. The same statement has been repeated as a certainty in a recent issue of the "Montreal Star." No evidence of this has however been adduced. Dr. Kingsford never saw a copy of the book, and I have never met anyone who has seen it. Our knowledge of it is derived from a contemporary review.