

"Then, you do not feel annoyed with me for not having——."

"Not a bit—not a bit," put in William, with a merry twinkle in his eye: "it's just exactly what I anticipated from the first."

"What!" I exclaimed, forgetting—in my eagerness—about the presence of the Squire. "Do you mean to say, that you anticipated, that I would marry Alice Graham myself?"

"Of course I did!" with a burst of merry laughter. "Did you suppose me such a fool, as to imagine that she would take a fancy to a hum-drum old foggy like me?"

"Then, after all, this mission on which you sent me was only a *ruse* to entrap me into a courtship."

"Nothing more or less, I assure you: you know I tried almost every other means without success, so I thought I would see what a little strategy would accomplish. But here comes the young lady herself," and William turned to shake hands with Alice who now appeared at the door.

Alice and I were married next morning in a quiet and unostentatious manner, my brother

acting the part of groomsman, while the Squire gave away the bride. The all important ceremony concluded, we sat down to a sumptuous repast, and the manner in which we got through with the edibles, bore evidence that the solemnity of the occasion had, by no means spoiled our appetites.

By the time we had finished our breakfast the carriage—which William had thoughtfully brought with him for our use—was at the door, and in less than half an hour the good-byes were uttered, and William and Alice and I were being whirled away from Rosemount at a slapping pace, behind a span of spirited greys.

Just on the city's outskirts, we found a rather handsome gothic cottage, which appeared to suit us to a charm, and into which, on our return from a pleasant little wedding tour, Alice and I entered and took possession. My brother—still unmarried—has been living with us ever since we commenced house-keeping, and appears to be perfectly satisfied with the way in which his "courtship by proxy" terminated, and—so am I.

THE HISTORY OF ACADIE.*

THIS work, although it has been before the public for some time, (having been published in monthly numbers from March 1865, to February 1867), has not received from any of the newspapers of the Lower Provinces, that share of attention which so laborious and important a work really deserves. Indeed, we are inclined to fear that, of the public journalists who have noticed it from time to time, but few have had leisure or inclination to give it a careful perusal. Nor is this a matter of much surprise. The style in which it is written, is such as to repel that large class, which, at the present day read only for pleasure, and certainly Mr. Murdoch's work cannot be regarded by any one as light and pleasant reading. The "History of Acadia," so far as completed, consists of nearly 2000 pages, octavo, and is brought down to the year 1827. The Author proposes "after a little rest," to continue the work down to the present time. It cannot be denied, that the industry and research which he has brought to bear on this undertaking, are most commendable, and entitle him to the gratitude of the future historians of these Provinces. But these qualities, however valuable they may be, are not the only ones necessary for success. Unfortunately for the Author, they are almost the only qualifications he possesses for the task he has undertaken. In generalization and skill in the arrangement of his materials he is miserably defective. He appears to have no conception

of the manner in which the facts at his command should be grouped, so as to make the pictures have the character of a living panorama of the times of which he writes. His whole work is like a Chinese painting, without perspective or shading. Facts that have the remotest possible connection with the main action of the History are given as prominently as the main action itself. A contemptible quarrel about some Maroons that were brought to Nova Scotia from Jamaica, receives more prominence than the Siege of Louisburg or the arrival of the Loyalists. Indeed Mr. Murdoch's work is in no sense of the word a History. It is simply a collection of facts in reference to the Province inartistically jumbled together, and might be appropriately termed—"Annals of Acadie."

Having said this much, we must not by any means, be understood as undervaluing the result of the Author's labor. It would be unfair not to admit, that Mr. Murdoch has done the people of the Lower Provinces a great service in putting on record, facts which, otherwise might soon have been utterly lost. No defects of style or arrangement, can rob him of the honor of being the first to give an extended account of the early settlement and conquest of these Provinces. Indeed it has often been a matter of surprise to us, that no one has before been found to undertake the task of writing such a History. The subject is, certainly, one of the greatest interest to us, not only as Colonists, but as subjects of the

* The History of Nova Scotia or Acadie, by Beamlsh Murdoch, Esq., Q.C., A. & W. MacKinlay, Halifax, N.S.