

field." He then describes the tyranny under which Canada groaned, the persecutions of which he was the object, the corruption of the judges who, during his imprisonment, had caused him to lose the greater portion of his fortune, in open violation of justice, of ordinary means of defence, and in allowing him to be intimidated by the presence of the Governor, who, contrary to ordinary usage, took his seat on the Bench when the case was being tried and which was lost by Haldimand's vote. Having declared that a great number of his compatriots were oppressed in the same manner, he draws a glowing picture of the vices of the Government, the despotism of the Governors, the servility of officials, the embezzlements of which they were guilty to gratify those in power or to serve their own friends, the continued violations of the Act of '74, and ends by demanding the establishment of a constitutional Government. This work has now become very rare. It is so evidently written under the empire of passion that it can scarcely be relied upon as an authority, and though all the Canadian historians quote it, none of them appear to trust implicitly to du Calvet's statements.*

Since Charlevoix, more than a hundred years had passed, and Canada had had no real historian. Dr. Jacques Labrie first made an attempt to supply this want. The Legislature allowed £500 for the publication of his volume, but unfortunately the author died before it was printed, and during the political troubles of 1837, the M.S. was destroyed at the burning of St. Benoit. William Smith was the first English writer on Canadian history. Mr. Smith was Registrar and Master in Chancery, and later became a member of the Executive Council. His book was published at Quebec in 1815, and is called "History of Canada from its first discovery to the peace, and from the establishment of the

* For a full account of this "traitor" and "compleat rascal," vide Report on Canadian Archives, 1888, p. xv. et seq: Ed.