

*I.—Brest on the Quebec Labrador.*

By SAMUEL EDWARD DAWSON, J. D. (Laval).

(Read May 24, 1905.)

While engaged in the study of the history of exploration in Canada the writer's curiosity was aroused by an entry on p. 25 of HARRISSE's "Notes pour servir à l'histoire, à la bibliographie etc., de la Nouvelle France," in which he gives the title, in full, of the letter which follows. Mr. HARRISSE adds this extract from Brunet as his only comment:

"Cette pièce rare est écrite de Brest en Canada, 13 Février, 1608 Vendue (annoncée sous la date de 1619) à la vente Coste et achetée pour une bibliothèque en Amérique." Much mythology has gathered round this locality and the writer felt that it was necessary to examine this little book. It was found in the Lenox Library, in New York, and by the permission of the courteous librarian it was copied in full and photographs were taken of the first and last pages. These are reproduced and will convey to the reader a sufficient idea of the book.

This little volume seems to be unique. Mr. Eames (the learned librarian) freely gave the writer all the information within his reach concerning it. A copy had been made in manuscript for the Carter-Brown Library, a fact which demonstrates its rarity. No notice of the volume is to be found in Sabin's Dictionary, and no copy is recorded in the catalogue of the British Museum. Brunet had taken his description from the Coste sale catalogue, and, as HARRISSE appears to have copied Brunet, neither of them would seem to have seen it, and no record is known to exist of any other copy. On the fly-leaf of the book is a memorandum of Mr. Lenox, "Bought in Paris, at the La Coste Sale. No other copy as yet known, 1609 not 1619." Mr. Lenox paid fr. 1.75 for it, and the sale occurred in 1854.

Many interesting questions are suggested by this little tract, but it will be best first to submit to the reader the letter itself before making any remarks upon it. It may be observed, however, that Lyons was not connected with Canada like the seaboard cities of Normandy and Bretagne. One Jesuit "Relation," that of 1616 (Biard's) was printed in that city, but Leon Savine's imprint is not met with again, so far as the writer can learn.