

of this kind in the Northwest. The student of Northwest history could spend several days in the professor's library with the greatest pleasure and instruction.

A WIDE FIELD.

To any members of this society who have the means and inclination for pursuing studies favored by the society, a wide opportunity is still open for obtaining books and other historical materials. Many of the British booksellers now make a specialty of American books, and a department of Americana is found in many of their catalogues. In London, one can find anything and almost everything that the world contains, and especially for old and rare books is this the place of search. Bernard Quaritch, bookseller, Piccadilly, W., has a very complete collection of American books, and he knows how to charge for them. C. Herbert, 60 Goswell road, E. C., has also a good collection and is very reasonable in prices. One of the best and cheapest places in London to obtain rare American books is at E. W. Stubbs, 30 Museum street (near the British Museum). On our own side of the Atlantic several booksellers have paid considerable attention to the collection of a stock of such books, and offer them at reasonable rates. Fiddington, 248 Youngs street, Toronto, is one of these. Perhaps the best of all dealers in this continent are Robert Clarke & Co., Cincinnati, whose catalogue, with prices, is in the possession of the Society.

ABOUT HUDSON'S BAY.

While it might well come within the scope of the Society's work to deal with works of travel and explorations in the Arctic regions, the field of literature in this department is so wide that we cannot undertake to touch it. Moreover, we do not wish it to be understood that Manitoba is so near the Arctic regions that we are specially bound to pay any particular attention to the regions of eternal ice and snow. The district around Hudson's Bay, however, as having been the theatre of much history and a subject of great interest in connection with the route by Hudson's Bay to Britain, deserves our best attention. Among the books most deserving of perusal are "An Account of Hudson's Bay," by Arthur Dobbs, 1744; "A Voyage to Hudson's Bay," by Henry Ellis; "Account of Six Years' Residence in Hudson's Bay," by Joseph Robson, in 1759, and the "American Traveller," 1770. These works are all taken up, as well as the blue book of 1749, with the immediate coast of Hudson's Bay. A number of French writers have also discussed the events happening on the bay, as M. De Bacqueville de la Potherie and M. Jérome. So far as the interior was concerned, however, the Hudson's Bay Company interest took a start from the time the company decided to penetrate the interior. Their inland expeditions were placed under the charge of an intrepid officer, who has left us a most graphic folio volume of his "adventures and discoveries." This was Samuel Hearne, who is known as the American Park, and who published his work in 1795. He was not only a discoverer of the Copper Mine river, but built forts for the company, among others Fort Cumberland, on the Saskatchewan. Another adventurer, who under the Hudson's Bay Company's auspices penetrated the country, and left us an interesting work, is Daniel Umfreville, who published an octavo volume in 1790.

EARLY FRENCH SETTLERS.

First, as figuring on the way to the Northwest was Champlain, whose travels are recorded in four volumes, published in Quebec and found in the library of this Society. In 1607 the Recollet priest Louis Hennepin, published at Utrecht, in French, his new discovery of a great country, though the region described lies rather to the south of the field of operations of our society. One of the most amusing and perhaps least valuable of the early French travellers whose works we have is Baron De Lahontan, who pub-

lished at Amsterdam in 1705, and at the Hague in 1715. His works are now very rare, but were quite popular in their day. In the library of this society is a valuable six volume edition of the works of Father Charlevoix, a member of the Jesuit society, published in Paris in 1744. From these volumes much of the information we have of New France is obtained. The Jesuit relations also found in our library and published by the Government of Canada will be found of service in studying this period. Much useful information may also be obtained as to the early French times from Parkman's beautifully written works, published in Boston, and also from an excellent work in two volumes, "Les Canadiens de l'Ouest," published by Joseph Tasse in Montreal, 1873.

NORTHWESTERN TRADERS.

After New France had fallen into the hands of Britain a daring race of Canadian traders sprang up, who penetrated the Northwest and became formidable rivals to the Hudson's Bay Company. The leading spirits of the Northwesters were daring Highlanders who had fled from Britain on account of their Jacobitism. The voyageurs were French. The deeds of many of those leading spirits of the time have come down by tradition to our times. It is only an occasional and partial glimpse that we get of their wild life from the books written about the Northwest during that period. In 1773, Jonathan Carver, an American traveller, penetrated the interior of North America. Born in Connecticut, he served as a captain in the war against the French in Canada. He published an account of his travels some ten years before, which gave a report of a determined effort made by him to cross through the Northwest to the Pacific Ocean. He failed in his attempt. A somewhat delapidated copy of his travels, with boards for the title page, will be found in the Society's library. In 1800, Alexander Henry published an account of the expedition undertaken by him between the years 1760 and 1778 in which he describes his travels as far as Lake Athabasca, in company with Frobisher, one of the magnates of the Northwest Company. The most interesting and reliable work is that of Alexander McKenzie, published in 1801. This celebrated man had the honor of discovering the Arctic Ocean at the part where empties the river that bears his name. He also, in 1794, crossed the Rocky Mountains, first of white men north of Mexico, and reached the Pacific Ocean. A book now very rare, is that of Daniel W. Harmon, published in 1820, of a journey of 5,000 miles taken by him northwest of Montreal. He gives an account of nineteen years' residence in the Northwest. I may mention, in passing, that his daughter still survives in Ottawa. In 1821, by absorption into the Hudson's Bay Company, the Northwest Company ceased its existence.

AMERICAN TRADERS AND EXPLORERS.

While the Hudson's Bay Company and Northwesters were struggling for the fur trade in the North, an American of great energy, John Jacob Astor, was pushing the fur trade to the upper lakes and on the Pacific coast. Washington Irving's "Astoria," gives a most interesting and graphic account of these operations. One of the agents employed by him was Alexander Ross, well known to the older inhabitants as Sheriff Ross, whose property lay in the city of Winnipeg. In a work published in 1839 the writer gave an account of the early settlement of the Columbia river. After severing his connection with this fur company he joined the Hudson's Bay Company, crossed the mountains from the Pacific and settled on the Red River. He is also the author of several other works, among them being his "Red River Settlement," published in 1856. Among the other employees of Astor was a Montreal Frenchman, Gabriel Franchère, who, after enduring many perils on the Pacific coast, performed a memorable journey in 1814, crossing the Rocky Mountains, down the Saskatche