

THE ARCHIVES OF CANADA

The Presidential Address read at the Annual General Meeting
in Ottawa, May 1895, of the Royal Society of Canada.

(The Manuscript Sources of Canadian History
as Revealed by our Archives)

"Colligite Fragmenta ne pereant."

If family papers are cherished, claim respect in the home circle as memoirs of an unforgettable past, how much more ought to be prized, carefully garnered and preserved, the records of a whole people; that is, its public archives.

Their contents inspire an interest confined not to one family alone; they embrace society at large—the aggregate of thousands of families.

A nation's history lies in its archives; there can it be sought; there rests the enduring evidence of its existence—the authentic certificate of its origin—its title deeds—the story of its achievements, good or bad.