

Report, that of 1873, gave the results of Mr. Brymner's visit to London — a visit which was destined to prove fruitful in many ways. Meanwhile the Dominion Government had instructed the Rev. Abbé Verreault, principal of the Jacques Cartier Normal School and president of the *Société Historique*, to undertake a mission of research to England and France; and the Report for 1874 bears the signature of that learned historian. The foregoing Reports may be called preliminary, their object being to show the wealth of the various material bearing on our history that was scattered through the provinces and the great depositories of the Old World, and the urgent need for having the most valuable documents copied, classified and indexed, and placed in safe keeping. In 1881 a new series began, which has since been regularly continued from year to year. The manner in which Mr. Brymner has discharged his duties merits the gratitude of every student of Canadian history. Nor is there any phase of his work deserving of more thankful recognition than that which relates to the period between the Conquest and the Constitutional Act, including the administrations of Governors Murray, Haldimand and Carleton (before and after his elevation to the peerage as Lord Dorchester). The Calendar of the Haldimand Collection, with the archivist's notes and comments, is virtually invaluable as a revelation of the real state of affairs and the characters of the chief actors—Haldimand himself especially. With these Reports and access to the documents which they so clearly describe and appreciate, the inquirer of to-day has advantages over his predecessors in the study of his country's past which he can hardly prize too highly, and of which he should not neglect to avail himself.\*

To understand the civil and constitutional history of the time under review, one thing essentially necessary is careful

\* What is thought in England of Mr. Brymner's work as archivist by those best qualified to speak of it, we have already made known to the reader. See *ante*, p. 3, No. 1.