

Act. I hope to have it ready in about two years from now." This preface bears the date of May-day, 1899.

It will be seen that "New France and New England" completes the story of the settlement and development of the colonies up to the point where Mr. Fiske's "American Revolution" has already taken up the narrative. It therefore gives a final unity to the sequence of remarkable volumes which he has devoted to American history.

The lamented death of the brilliant author prevented him from giving the final touches to his work. Most of the material for it was delivered as lectures before the Lowell Institute during the last winter of his life; but only the first two chapters received his definite revision for the press. The third chapter was unfinished, but has been completed by a few pages, enclosed in brackets, and prepared in accordance with Mr. Fiske's own memoranda indicating what incidents he proposed to include in the remaining paragraphs. The other chapters were in the form of carefully prepared lectures, but were not equipped with the side-notes and annotations calling attention to authorities, such as Mr. Fiske supplied freely in his "Discovery of America" and other volumes. From the third