

The few who lived to grow old, though bowed by the toils of a long mission still kindled with the fervour of apostolic zeal."

The *Relations* are, in fact, the journals kept by by the Jesuits while labouring to plant the cross among the Indians of New France. It was their duty to transmit to their Superior at Montreal, or Quebec, a written record of their doings; they had occasionally to come back from their distant fields of labour and go into retreat at the central home of the mission. The Superior annually made up a narrative, or relation, of the most important events in his large missionary jurisdiction which he forwarded to the Provincial of the order in France, who in his turn carefully scrutinised and re-edited the reports before he handed them to the printer. The *Relations* proper begin with Le Jeune's "*Brieve Relation du voyage de la Nouvelle France*," which appeared in a duodecimo volume in 1632, neatly printed and bound in vellum, and year by year there issued from the press of Sebastien Cramoisy, at the sign of the Storks, Rue St. Jacques, Paris, a similar volume until 1673, when the series ceased, probably owing to the influence of Count Frontenac to whom the Jesuits were distasteful. In addition to these forty volumes (technically known to collectors as Cramoisy's) many similar publications appeared, a few before but the majority after. The *Relations* at once became popular in the court circles of France, their regular appearance was always awaited with the keenest interest and assisted greatly in creating and fostering the enthusiasm of pious philanthropists who for many years maintained these missions. About half a century ago Dr. O'Callaghan, editor of *The Documentary History of New York*, and Dr. Shea, in his *History of the Catholic Missions Among the Indian Tribes of the United States* and Father Martin, S. J., of Montreal, drew the attention of the literary world to the great value of the *Relations* as store-houses of contemporary information. A scramble at once began for Cramoisy's, collectors found them very scarce, the devout readers of the XVIIth century had actually worn them out. The only complete set in America is in the Lennox library, New York. In 1858 the Canadian Government reprinted the Cramoisy's, with a few additions, in three large octavo volumes under the editorship of Father Martin. These, too, are now rare. Shea and O'Callaghan each brought out very small edi-