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CANADIAN HISTORIES.

PART II.

In works that treat in part of the period of the French régime, our libraries are rich. It happened, fortunately for posterity, that most of the distinguished men who had to do with the exploration and early settlement of New France were persons who could wield "the pen of a ready writer." Jacques Cartier, Lescarbot, Champlain, the Recollet, the Jesuit, and the Sulpician Fathers, wrote, for the benefit of the living world and the world unborn, of what their eyes had seen and their ears had heard. Of few nations, indeed, are the origins so distinctly traceable as those of ours. We can read in Jacques Cartier's travel-notes of that first authenticated voyage up the St. Lawrence, the river of Canada, and to what pious mindfulness it owes its well-known name. Record in hand, we can point out the sites of those primitive capitals of vanished but unforgotten realms—Stadacona and Hochelaga. Nor are we without glimpses of the obscure interval, crossed, we are told, by venerable Membertou, between the departure of Cartier and the