

relating to the various North American colonies. It includes documents relating to Louisiana, the voyages of LaSalle and the discovery of the Mississippi.

More recently transcripts have been made in *les Archives des Affaires Etrangères*, the *Bibliothèque Nationale*, and *les Archives Nationales*. In addition to these larger collections, there are several smaller series of great value such as the correspondence between Mgr Laval and the Prefect of the Propaganda, at Rome, the correspondence of the Marquis de Montcalm and the journal of Bougainville's expedition of 1756.

The chief series of documents for the British period consists of the correspondence between the Colonial Office and the representatives of the Crown of the Colonies. A distinct series exists for each colony. For the Province of Quebec, which until 1791 included what is now Ontario, the despatches received and sent by the Governor have been copied from the originals in the Public Records Office. In some cases contemporary copies of the letters out and the letters in are preserved in the letter books of the Governor-in-chief. Supplementary to this series are the Murray Papers, the Haldimand Papers and the Bouquet Papers, containing a more complete correspondence of their particular period than is afforded in the Colonial Office records. The letters received and the letters sent by the Governors or Lieutenant Governors of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton have been copied from the originals in London and constitute separate sub-series. The original despatches from the Colonial Office to the Governors of the Province of Lower Canada and the Lieutenant Governors of the Province of Upper Canada have been secured from the office

of the Governor General. The despatches from the colonial governors to the Colonial Office are represented by transcripts from the originals in London, though at the present time a series of the original duplicates is being received. For the period of United Canada, the Archives possesses the originals of the despatches in and the original drafts of the despatches out. In addition, the letter books of the governors supply a duplicate series both of the despatches sent and the despatches received. Copies have been secured of the State Papers of the Hudson's Bay Company for the years 1673 to 1759, and the minutes of the company have been copied for the years 1671 to 1767. Eighty volumes of Selkirk Papers, copied from the originals in Scotland, supply most important information on the history of the middle west. For the colony of Vancouver Island the originals of the despatches to the governor have been preserved for the years 1847 to 1867 and of the despatches from the governor for the years 1858 to 1864. Likewise for British Columbia there are the original despatches to the governor for the years 1858 to 1871 and to the Colonial Office for the years 1864 to 1871.

The value of these series of correspondence cannot be over-estimated. The despatches from the Colonial Office contain the directions under which the government of the colonies was conducted. They indicate the development from the absolute power of the governor to the granting of responsible government and colonial autonomy. Likewise the correspondence of the governors holds the mirror before the growing colonies and reflects, with greater or less fidelity, the varying phases of the life of the colonies, the conflict of opposing opinions and