

Many of the families in all the Provinces are descendants of the Loyalists who settled in 1783 and 1784. Writers on this subject have had so much difficulty in tracing descents, that authentic lists are valuable in a historical and, in many cases, in a legal point of view. Where such lists exist, their value would be largely increased were they deposited here to form part of a general collection, whilst they are comparatively worthless when apart and so scattered as to admit of no comparison, by which the various branches which were separated at the close of the Revolutionary War might be traced and the connection among them established. Mr. Henry F. Perley, C.E., Ottawa, has added a very valuable fragment towards this history, by presenting an old, apparently the original, or at least an original duplicate, list of the Loyalists who in 1783 and 1784 drew lots for the grants of land in St. John and Carleton, N. B., on which they were to settle, these having been laid out in 1783 previous to their arrival by Mr. Paul Bedell, the name then given to the place being Parrrtown, in honour of the Governor. The list was among the papers of the late R. C. Minnette, who was for many years City Surveyor of St. John.

Among the additions of original MS. from private sources are the correspondence of Captain A. Bulger, whilst he was in charge of the Red River settlement, besides copies which Mr. A. E. Bulger is kindly making of other papers left by his father, which he is unwilling to part with; the charges, decisions, &c., of Chief Justice Sewell from 1808, in his own handwriting, obtained from Mr. Thomas Hodgins, Q. C.; the reminiscences of the late Lt.-Colonel Wily, Director of Militia Stores, giving an account of the events of 1837-38, in which he was personally engaged; the visit of the Prince of Wales, whom he accompanied in an official capacity; these were presented by his family; orderly book during 1813 of the embodied militia of New Brunswick, presented by Lt.-Colonel McCully, Chatham, N.B., and others of more or less importance. At Note D is a list of works presented; it will show that the interest in this branch is not confined to Canada. A further proof of this is the rapidly increasing correspondence from all quarters and the number of personal investigations, chiefly by persons from a distance, many being from the United States. Every endeavour has been made to furnish the information desired without any unnecessary delay. The strictest economy has been observed in the expenditure of the grant made by Parliament and every effort has been made to use to the best advantage the amount appropriated for this branch.

The progress made in the publication of the Calendar of the Haldimand Collection affords an opportunity of calling attention to its value. This collection, together with the State Papers of the Colonial Office (1755 to 1791) already referred to, give the most authentic account of the events of that period. Much doubt and uncertainty exist as to these, a great part of which can now be removed. The want of information on the events of that period is evident from the following remark in MacMullen's "History of Canada" in reference to it;