

formation on this subject, Canada having always been under its supervision, and never having had any relations with my Department."

Researches were also made in the collections in the Royal Library at Paris; a most full and unqualified permission for which purpose, was granted by M. Villemain, the Minister of Public Instruction, and every facility afforded by the gentlemen in charge of this magnificent institution.

My investigations in the several Repositories at Paris, just alluded to, occupied me several months, and resulted in the procurement of seventeen volumes of transcripts, containing upwards of six thousand pages. A full and accurate catalogue of the "Paris Documents," in which every paper, its date, and a reference to its page, is indicated, being also appended to this report, renders any particular reference to their contents, unnecessary in this place. They commence with 1631, and extend to 1763; including selections of the correspondence of the Governors of Canada with the authorities in France, respecting Indian affairs, the relations with this Province, &c.; as well as the despatches of the military commanders, during the romantic and exciting period in our history, of the "French War."

As at the Hague, and in London, the regulations of the offices at Paris did not allow me to execute that part of the law establishing the agency, requiring the procurement, if possible, of original documents. Transcripts were made, therefore, of the papers selected; and the orthography of the originals was followed as accurately as possible. In closing this reference to my researches at Paris, I cannot forbear the remark, that the proverbial reputation of the French Government, in regard to all matters connected with scientific and literary investigation, was amply sustained in the courtesies that were extended to the agent of this State; and that the historical treasures which were found in its Archives, are only equaled by the prompt and generous liberality with which they were thrown open to my inspection. That much of the good feeling exhibited, was owing to the high standing of our Minister at the French Court, is unquestionable; and I feel it a duty, not less incumbent than grateful, again to acknowledge the marked kindness of General Cass, and the personal and zealous exertions he never failed making, to render my visit to Paris most advantageous to the State.