

lish masterpieces. On every ground, therefore, the study of literature is defended and approved, and should meet with the encouragement of educators in all our schools and colleges.—*Academy News*.

CANADIAN FRENCH.

MR. A. M. ELLIOT, in the Johns Hopkins Circular for December, writes of a philological expedition to Canada:—

“In point of language, the Canadian French is certainly one of the most interesting topics for a philologist. Here we find that time has stood still, especially for the more remote rural districts; and the scholar could easily imagine holding intercourse with the subjects of Louis XIV. This means that we have the unique privilege, in this age of steam and travel, of studying in them a form of speech that has scarcely known change for the past two centuries. But this idiom is not a dialect of that remote period; and the greatest surprise to a student of language arriving in Canada is to find that, contrary to the general impression of scholars, the vernacular does not bear any specific dialectic character, but is the middle (sixteenth century) French, with those natural changes which would be produced by the intimate fusion into a whole of all the different species of language that were originally brought from the mother country. An influence upon the language must be noted in the original seigniorial tenure which prevailed throughout Lower Canada. The seigneurs were the second sons of noble families who chose the better class of peasants to accompany them to their homes in the New World, and here each ruler laid out on the river his little kingdom (generally $\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ leagues in dimensions) which he divided among his colonists in concessions of 3×30 arpents. This arrangement produced a series of centres of civilization, in which the lord and his educated friends were brought into more or less inti-