

in the closing days of the French régime in Canada. This work is written by the Abbé Casgrain, who illustrates the studious and literary character of the professors of that great university which bears the name of the first Bishop of Canada, Monseigneur Laval, and which is one of the most interesting features of the ancient capital of Québec, on whose heights it stands so conspicuous and dignified a structure. The Abbé's history is distinguished by all that fervor of French Canadians which shows itself when it is a question of their illustrious past, and which sometimes warps their judgment and reason. The venerable Abbé has made many other valuable contributions to the historical literature of the country, notably one on the land of Evangeline, which was deservedly crowned by the French Academy as an admirable example of literary style.

A more pretentious general history of Canada, in ten octavo volumes, is that by an English Canadian, whose life closed with his book. Whilst it shows much industry and conscientiousness on the part of the author, it fails too often to evoke our interest even when it deals with the striking and picturesque story of the French régime. The author seems to have considered it his duty to be sober and prosaic when Parkman is bright and eloquent. The work has, however, undoubted merits—especially in its account of the war of 1812-14 and the troubles of 1837-38—since it throws new light on many controverted points in Canadian history; and assuredly it is never likely to mislead us by a too highly colored and imaginative version of the most famous incidents in the Dominion's annals.

A good estimate of the progress of literary culture in Canada can be formed from a careful perusal of the poems of Bliss Carman, Archibald Lampman, Professor Roberts, Wilfred Campbell, Duncan Campbell Scott and Frederick George Scott, whose poetic efforts frequently appear in the leading American and Canadian magazines—and more rarely in English periodicals. I mention these writers particularly, because from the finish of their verse and their freshness of thought they are confessedly superior to all other Canadian poets and may fairly claim a foremost place alongside American poets since Longfellow, Emerson, Whittier, Bryant and Lowell have disappeared. Pauline Johnson, who has Indian blood in her veins and is a connection of W. Dean Howells, the American novelist, Archbishop O'Brien, of Halifax, Miss Machar, Ethelyn Weatherald, Charles Mair, and several others, might be named to prove that poetry is not a lost art in Canada, despite its pressing, prosaic and material needs. Dr. Louis Frechette is a worthy successor of Cremazie, and has won the distinction of having his best work crowned by the French Academy.