

who was fortunate enough to possess a better education than his neighbor. Thus David Burpee taught school in the winter of 1778-79, receiving 3s. 11½d. per month for each scholar. So far as his accounts show he had only seven scholars. The more closely we view the condition of the people of past generations the more clear it appears that the "good old times" of which some people talk are mainly in the imaginations of men, and that there was never a period in the history of this province when its people were so prosperous and happy as they are at the present day.

FATHER LECLERCQ'S VOYAGE IN 1677 FROM NEPISIGUIT TO MIRAMICHI.

TRANSLATED BY W. F. GANONG.

In these days of swift and luxurious travel, it is not easy for us to appreciate its slowness and hardships in the earlier periods of our history. Yet we must take this into account if we would have a clear understanding of the conditions under which our forefathers lived and labored and triumphed. The narratives of the early explorers, and especially of the Jesuit missionaries, abound in descriptions of the hardships of primitive travel, and to most readers these are among the most interesting parts of such writings. Probably, however, there is nowhere a more faithful and vivid account than in the following narrative. Father LeClercq was a missionary of the Recollet Order, and was stationed at Gaspé towards the end of the seventeenth century. He published at Paris, in 1691, a book of great value to our early history, and chapter IX. of that work is devoted to the narrative. The voyage was made in 1677, as he tells us in the preceding chapter. The narrative is equally valuable for the clearness with which it reflects the devout and devoted spirit with which these noble missionaries of the Roman Catholic Church performed their laborious and dangerous duties, a spirit which never has been and never can be surpassed by the missionaries of any other church. Father LeClercq tells his story not only clearly but humorously, and, to the present translator at least, it is one of the most delightful chapters in all New