

THE DE LÉVIS PAPERS.

AT a meeting of the MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, April 12, 1888, Dr. GEORGE E. ELLIS in the chair, Mr. WINSOR read the following letter:—

MR. PRESIDENT,— Being unable to attend the meeting this morning, I write to communicate to the Society a remarkable discovery of papers relating to French-American History made lately in France by Abbé H. R. Casgrain, of Quebec.

General, afterwards Maréchal de Lévis, who was second in command to Montcalm in Canada, carefully collected and arranged the great number of papers in his hands relating to the American campaigns in which he had just been engaged. The collection forms in all eleven volumes, and consists of (1) the journal of General de Lévis; (2) his letters written between 1756 and 1762; (3) journals of the several campaigns of the war, written chiefly by the secretaries of Montcalm; (4) letters of Montcalm to Lévis; (5) letters of Vaudreuil to Lévis; (6) letters of Bourlamaque to Lévis; (7) letters of Bigot to Lévis; (8) miscellaneous letters to Lévis; (9) various journals and narratives of the events of the war; (10) letters from the Court to the chief commanders in America; (11) miscellaneous military papers, partly relating to America.

Some of the documents in this precious collection exist in other forms, including the journal of General de Lévis, of which there is a duplicate at Montreal; but by far the greater part have been hitherto wholly unknown. They have always remained in the Lévis family, and are now in the hands of his great-grandson, the Comte Raimond de Nicolay. Having lain hidden for more than a century in a provincial chateau, they have remained hitherto unknown. "It is the present Comte de Nicolay," writes Abbé Casgrain, "who has rescued them from the dust."