

## The Canada School Journal

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CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL HAS RECEIVED

*An Honorable Mention at Paris Exhibition, 1878.  
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The Publishers frequently receive letters from their friends complaining of the non-receipt of the JOURNAL. In explanation they would state, as subscriptions are necessarily payable in advance, the mailing clerks have instructions to discontinue the paper when a subscription expires. The clerks are, of course, unable to make any distinction in a list containing names from all parts of the United States and Canada.

TORONTO, JULY, 1880.

—Special attention is directed to the Report of the Syndicate appointed by Cambridge University to consider the "Greek Question," and the opinions of the leading teachers of England upon the subject, which appear in another column. They form a mine of golden thought and ripe experience in relation to this question. We owe a debt of gratitude to the veteran educator, Robert Potts, M.A., for sending them to us.

### SOURCES OF CANADIAN HISTORY.

It will be in the recollection of many of our readers that the study of Canadian History in our schools, even in its most elementary form, does not date back more than about twenty years. And, as a matter of fact, there are yet some schools in the Dominion, of more or less pretensions, in which every other history is taught but that of Canada. In such schools it is considered desirable that the pupils should know something of Ancient and English history, but nothing whatever of the history of their own country! This, of course, is a matter of taste. Formerly there was a sufficient excuse for this omission, as teachers were either destitute of manuals to aid them on the subject, or were dependent on the most meagre sources of information for materials on which to base their instruction. By degrees, however, this source of information has been enlarged, and thanks are due to Mr. John Lovell, of Montreal, who (in addition to comprehensive manuals on the subject which he had published) placed, some years since, within the reach of teachers, "Garneau's History of Canada, translated by Andrew Bell, and issued in three volumes. Christie's "History of Lower Canada" also supplied a want. Warburton's "Hochelega," it is true, furnished a graphic sketch of the early incidents of our history; and the "Transactions of the Quebec Historical," as well as Lemoin's "Maple Leaves," contained most interesting episodes of the history of early Colonial times—chiefly French. The *Relations des Jesuites*, and the "Documentary History of the State of New York" also contained a mine of historical wealth, but the labor of exploration in such a

field deterred the vast majority of teachers from attempting it. Later on, our Colonial literature was enriched by the publication of the eloquent and romantic sketches of periods of early colonial history, by Francis Parkman. We have thus characterized these sketches of periods of our history—which are in themselves so full of stirring incident—and yet they are written by Parkman generally in sober language. The very nature of the task imposed upon this writer necessarily involved a spirited treatment of some of the subjects in his histories. Many of the incidents are, on themselves, both touching and romantic. They also involve the narration of details, showing, in most cases, great enterprise and resolution, or intense privation and prolonged endurance, as well as death in varied forms, not excluding martyrdom itself. With such material, and in such hands, it was not surprising that Parkman's successive volumes attracted a more than ordinary share of attention on the part of those interested in our early history. They are invaluable to the teacher and student as sources of authentic information on the periods treated.

After all, however, these works must be regarded as chiefly fragmentary. They deal only either with local or specific departments of our history, and do not touch, except incidentally, the primal sources or springs of our origin and growth as a people. This "missing link" has, however, been most opportunely and most satisfactorily supplied by the issue of two elaborate volumes from the press by the Rev. Dr. Ryerson—so justly noted as one of the most able and successful writers which the Dominion has yet produced. This work, entitled "The Loyalists of America and their Times, from 1620 to 1816," enters into an exhaustive discussion of "the causes and consequences" of the two-fold settlement of New England by the Pilgrims of New Plymouth, and the Puritans of Massachusetts Bay. These two settlements were united into one after a separate existence of seventy years, under a charter from William and Mary in 1690. The venerable writer analyses, with a steady and skilful hand, the growth of the mixed principles which governed the New Englanders in their relations to Old England and the other Colonies in America. Never were the disguises of professed friendship and hypocrisy of the actors in these times more fully understood and exposed. These elucidations furnish a clue to some of the misunderstandings and mystifications of the times. They expose the hollowness of some of the professions made to justify the resort to arms in support of the rights of the subject, and in the interests of free government. The unparalleled cruelty in the treatment and expatriation of the vanquished loyalists exhibits, in the strongest light, the utter hollowness of these professions, which, as if to add to the solemn mockery of their utterance under the circumstances, were duly enshrined in the famous "Declaration of Independence." It is true that this noted document was written by a philosophical infidel, and not by the immediate actors in the cruel tragedy of despoiling and ruining the loyalists, and then banishing them, but it was, nevertheless, hailed by them as a convenient shield, under the respectable ægis of which they could the more securely and effectually carry out their cruel and heartless designs towards the defeated and utterly defenceless loyalists. But we shall not anticipate. These admirable volumes will amply repay readers