

determination of history apart from economic or political history. Races of men have lived on this continent, have left memorials of a high state of civilization, and they have disappeared. It is the business of history to trace out the laws of their origin, their life and their death, because all life is subject to certain fixed and infallible laws. It is even a subject of speculation whether the white man is not doomed to extinction. It is pointed out that colored races are double in number of the white, their high birth rate, compared with the lessening birth rate amongst whites, coupled with the ever increasing pressure for more space—for territories in Africa and Australia, only partially occupied by whites, will inevitably force a pressure that will engulf the world in an all prevading struggle. This movement is kept in check at present by superior address of the whites, but the time may come when all treaties and conventions may be swept aside according to German precedent and the colored races break bounds and sweep like an avalanche over the earth. How are we to know, unless we study the laws of life, taught us by history?

The habits, customs, methods of life, stories of the chase, the battles with foes and traditions of the tribes who had their villages and homes, where we now have ours, are of sufficient interest to stir the imagination of the most sluggish student. The advent of the Acadian, the progress and development of his settlements along our coasts and up our rivers, his struggles with nature and his final expulsion, followed by the coming of the Loyalists, and their spreading themselves from St. John through the forests, and about our inland lakes and rivers, created isolated clearings, then settlements, growing into villages and towns, with the creation of highways and roads, the opening of schools, the development of mills, factories and internal trade and transportation—what subject ought to be of greater interest especially connected as this process was with the forebears of nearly every family in the province.

In local research work, in establishing local historical societies and in recording by tablets and monuments memorials of past achievements, New Brunswick is half a century behind our neighbors in Maine and other states of New England and is loitering far behind Nova Scotia. There, the history of nearly every county is written or printed and many historical works are current. In this province we have not a single county or town history.

None of the early histories of New Brunswick are today in print. Of the first and most valuable of them, Peter Fisher's, issued in 1827, only three numbers are known to be in existence. Cooney's history of the North Shore counties cannot be found in the book stores, though a second edition was issued by the late D. G. Smith, Chatham, many years ago. Hannay's two volume

history of New Brunswick is out of print, also his works on "Acadia," "The War of 1812," and the "Loyalists." The late J. Russell Jack devoted a large part of his life to Loyalist records, which furnish a storehouse of information for a future historian. The late Leonard Allison, a barrister at Sussex, published some years ago an account of the Arnold family, the first member of which was rector of the parish. Alexander Munro, of Port Elgin, published a history of New Brunswick.

The province is under special obligations to the Venerable Archdeacon Raymond for his admirable history of the St. John River, his compilation of the Winslow papers, and many other contributions to our historic lore. The late J. W. Lawrence's "Judges of New Brunswick" is a work of great value. All these records are out of print. The student of provincial history would today have to await the publication of the forthcoming volumes by Prof. W. G. Ganong of our natural and political history. What records are there of the early schools, their development and their teachers and pupils? There are filed in the Education Office records of teachers and pupils since the government made grants, some time before 1858—but before that period where are the records—embracing a period of nearly one hundred years? Echo answers where? The first Grammar School was opened in St. Andrews about 1821, the second one at Sackville a year later—the latter by the grandfather of the writer. Many persons besides myself would like to possess the records of these old schools, as well as the old parish schools during the first half century. These records filed with clerks of the old Courts of Sessions are mostly destroyed or lost with the records of proceedings of those Courts. The records of the old town and parish meetings covering a period of a hundred years—the old assessment rolls, lists of voters, the old township books—scarcely any of these books or documents exist today. The great libraries of the United States are large purchasers of old records, with which to enrich their collections and their agents have scoured these provinces for documents of the past.

When the next or following generation demands these books, it will then be discovered that family correspondence bearing on public affairs, that documents relating to municipal, parish and county business, have disappeared, that traditions have been forgotten and there is no material available, except that small quantity that the public archives have succeeded in gathering and preserving.

The opportunity for gathering such material is slipping by, without any effort being made to preserve it. This is only a part of the story. No current history of the province exists. Hannay's, Gesner's and others are out of print. We are promised one by Dr. Ganong. This will be too large for general circulation.