

In a work of such magnitude as that of collecting in one central place of deposit all the documents, original or copies, relating to the history of the Provinces composing the Dominion, &c., it is evident that without the cordial cooperation of all interested in the various parts of British North America, no progress commensurate with the extent of the task could be expected. I have, therefore, endeavoured to enlist the sympathy and help of as many as possible, so as to make the collection coextensive with the field to be covered. Among those who have most kindly offered to be of service are Sir Ambrose Shea, who has undertaken to collect, as far as possible, the papers bearing on the history of Newfoundland. Mr. Brecken, of Charlottetown, has undertaken to do the same for Prince Edward Island. The assistance rendered in Rome by His Grace the Archbishop of Quebec, has been already referred to. Mr. Heneker, Commissioner of the British American Land Company has most obligingly offered to furnish copies of the correspondence relating to the early settlement of the Eastern Townships. Acknowledgments are due to other gentlemen for services and offers of service, and at the end of this report will be found the names of those who have forwarded documents of various kinds, suitable for deposit among the Historical Archives. To the Governments of Ontario and Quebec we are indebted for collections of official documents. In addition to these, must be added the presentation by the Hon. Mr. Blanchet, Provincial Secretary of Quebec, of the recently published volumes of valuable papers under the title of "Collection de Manuscrits.....relatifs à la Nouvelle France" and the Hon. Mr. Ouimet, Superintendent of Education, has presented a very extensive collection of historical works, illustrating the history of Quebec, before and since the Conquest, besides an almost complete set of the reports and other documents relating to the important Department of Education. To the Right Hon. the Master of the Rolls of England, the Archives are indebted for the publications of the Public Record Office, a munificent gift of nearly 400 volumes, a complete catalogue of which I have placed at the end of this report (Note A).

I may be allowed to appeal to all who are in a position in any of the Provinces, to assist in the work of collection. The following note received from His Honour Judge Pringle, of Cornwall, is an example of how this may be done in respect to different localities:—

"MY DEAR SIR,

"In compliance with your request, I enclose three papers. The first relates to old books and documents in the Public Offices at Cornwall.

"The second is a list of private documents of old date in my possession.

"The third is an account of an old map lent me by D. B. McLennan, Esq., Barrister.

"Yours truly,

J. F. PRINGLE."

The papers, with a fourth, not mentioned in the letter, containing a list of Magistrates appointed for the Eastern District of Upper Canada in 1793, will be found in Note B. Copies of papers of a similar nature have already been received