

d'un voyage fait par l'ordre du Roi dans l'Amerique Septentrionale." He himself describes it as "A history from which I have determined to omit nothing that could possibly edify my readers." Parkman characterizes the Jesuit as careless, but Dr. Shea says, "Access to State papers, and the archives of the religious order to which he belongs, experience and skill as a practiced writer, a clear head and an ability to analyze, arrange and describe, fitted him for his work." The history of Frontenac, de la Barre and de Dénonville's administrations are exhaustively treated in these pages. In 1744, two editions of this history were published, one in three volumes, quarto, and the other in six volumes of small size, with the plates folded. In 1804, Heriot published an abridged translation of Charlevoix, but the English student owes much to the version and annotations of Dr. Shea, published in New York, 1866-72.

The colonists brought from their native land many songs, ballads and legends. All the light-hearted vivacity of the French temperament appears in these joyous refrains, the Old World superstitions revive in the ancient tales. Amidst virgin forests and tractless wastes of snow, the strains to which the hearts of these strangers in a strange land clung tenaciously, acquired additional pathos. They formed the lullaby with which the mother hushed her little ones to sleep, they were shouted by the hardy voyageur, wandering in the savage immensity of the wilderness; they were sung when family groups collected around the hearth where the blazing log fire hurled defiance to the roar of the fierce tempest without. The first germs of poetry were planted in tribulation and suffering, watered by tears, warmed by high-hearted enthusiasm. "Our old stories, our songs, proverbs and superstitions, all come to us from Normandy and Brittany," wrote a distinguished Canadian in 1835. "The tales of 'La Mer bleue,' 'Le merle blanc,' the songs 'Dans le prison de Nantes,' 'A St. Malo,' 'A Rouen,' 'C'est la belle Française,' the stories of wher wolves, the