

Works of this character, whether published at the time or subsequently, would be of material service as contributions towards the elucidation of various points of Canadian history. A beginning of such contributions, I am happy to say, has already been made. Among these, I have to acknowledge from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, by the hands of Dr. Lyman C. Draper, a complete set of the catalogues of the Library and of the transactions of that Society, including many very interesting papers. Also, from the State Library of New York, by the attention of Dr. Homes, a collection of documents, a list of which will be found at the end of this Report. To Mr. Black, the Treasurer, and to the late Mr. Ansley, City Surveyor, of Montreal, thanks are due for valuable collections of reports respecting the progress of that city. For other papers, pamphlets, &c., presented by individuals, I would refer to the list at the end of the Report. Special reference may, however, be permitted to the collection of letters addressed to Sir Charles Bagot, whilst Governor-General of Canada, presented by his grandson, Mr. Joscelyn Bagot, Grenadier Guards, and to the collection sent by Sir Francis Hincks, K.C.M.G., one of which is published by his permission.

In the *Greville Memoirs*, Vol. III., page 125, of the London edition, is an entry, dated 20th December, 1835, in these words: "I have just seen an excellent letter from Frederick Elliot to Taylor, with a description of the state of parties and politics in Lower Canada, which has been shown to the Ministers, who think it the ablest *exposé* on those heads that has been transmitted from thence."

On the information furnished by Sir Francis Hincks, I wrote to Sir Henry Taylor, to whom the letter spoken of by Mr. Greville was addressed. Sir Henry at first sent me *copies* of two letters, the one referred to by Mr. Greville, dated 24th October, 1835, and another dated the 12th November of the same year. Subsequently, however, he sent the originals, which he had found after a long and troublesome search, with permission to publish them, and sometime after, two additional letters. These letters were written by Mr. T. Fred. Elliot, the youngest son of the Right Hon. Hugh Elliot, and nephew of the first Lord Minto. He was in Canada in 1835, as Secretary of the Gosford Commission, and whilst in that position, wrote the letters in question, unofficially, to his friend, Mr., now Sir, Henry Taylor, of the Colonial Office. They were considered of sufficient importance to be submitted to the Ministry, and were passed from one to another of the members of the Administration. The following note, written by Lord Howick, respecting the first letter, shows the sense entertained of the value of the correspondence:—

"WAR OFFICE, Thursday.

"DEAR TAYLOR,—I return Elliott's letter, which I think decidedly the best paper on Canadian affairs I have ever read. Indeed, I do not know that I ever saw an account of the state of parties and politics in any country, drawn up with equal judgment and discrimination. Perhaps I am not a fair judge, and that I estimate this paper too highly, in consequence of its so completely establishing all my own pre-