

The manuscripts thus confided to my perusal were manifestly written when the occurrences were vividly impressed upon the memory. Many remarks and circumstances have been omitted. They betrayed a little of the old gentleman's garrulity, and were sometimes irrelevant, or too caustic and severe. With the exception of the commencement, the documents have been transposed, so as to adapt them for a continuous history.

No stranger can visit Canada without an awakened and deep interest -- and an acute American observer of life and manners naturally inquires into the causes of those varied novelties which attract his notice. The peculiar characteristics of society there elude a slight regard ; and to comprehend the state of religious principles, the tone of domestic morals, the mental vassalage, and the profound debasement of the *habitans* of that Province, numerous difficulties and obstructions must be surmounted. Patience, with perseverance, is necessary to delve into the secrets of their social and political condition.

A solicitude to understand and analyze the elements of Canadian character and habits, influenced me to use all the means to obtain accurate and diversified information upon these melancholy topics. My acquaintance with Diganu aided my design.

The circumstances of his life had increased his tact for surveying those around him ; and his whole course had rendered it necessary for him to watch with all keenness, the wayward doings of his associates and fellow-citizens. His