

points to the early history of the Maritime Provinces. No person who profited by the learned historical articles published in *Canada Francais* during its two years of existence, can help regretting that lack of encouragement should have forced the organizers of that excellent quarterly to discontinue publication. The Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, the Société Historique de Montreal, the Quebec Institut Canadien and the Geographical Society of the same city have done good service to the cause of historical research. M. LeMoine, Dr. G. Stewart, M. Ernest Myraud, Abbé Verreau, W. Ernest Hart, Mr. W. D. Lighthall, Mr. De Lery Macdonald, Mr. H. Mott, Mr. De M. Beaujeu, Mr. J. E. Roi, Dr. G. E. Dawson, and several others have laboured faithfully in various chosen corners of the great field and, if time permitted, it would be a pleasure to linger at some length over their gifts to the public. The service of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal deserves special praise for its exhibitions of historical portraits, in 1887 and 1892, and doubtless some readers of *The Week* have not forgotten the Caxton Exhibition of 1877, which may be deemed the starting point with many of the movements for the collection of of Canadiana. Mr. W. J. White's too short-lived periodical thus entitled and the Society for Historical Studies which it represented may be traced to the same source. One of the presidents of the Society, Mr. Ernest E. Hart, enlarged a paper read at one of the meetings into his already rare monograph, "The Fall of New France." The letterpress in this work, based on a library the sale of which was an event in the world of book-lovers, was enriched by illustrations to be sought elsewhere in vain. Mr. Lighthall, and other members, has published a paper on "The Battle of Chateauguay" and "Montreal after 250 years," a comely and instructive memorial volume. For it must not be forgotten that the 400th anniversary of the great discovery of Columbus was the 250th anniversary of the foundation of Montreal by Paul Chamedey de Maisonneuve. Mr. J. P. Edwards, whose library of Canadiana is about to enrich the shelves of McGill's new Redpath Library, has also written several monographs (one on Ottawa, which should be better known) and during his editorship of the *Dominion Illustrated*, made it a thesaurus of historical information of real value.

Before passing on to Ontario, there is another work to which I would call attention as exemplifying what good service even a busy professional man may render to the cause of historic truth by taking thought of the unsolved problems that lie within his reach and of the mass of *pieces justificatives* to which access could be obtained by knowledge and judgment and earnestness of purpose. The name of Mr. Desire Girouard, Q.C., M.P., is known to many readers of *The Week* as that of a parliamentarian. He wears the gown of a Doctor of Laws as well as of a Queen's Counsel and has long been a diligent student of history. His home—the home of his ancestors—bears in its name a promise which, after being for ages an incentive to that quest for a north-west passage, in which so many brave explorers have fallen, has in our own day had its practical fulfilment. Those who have read Parkman's "La Salle and the Discovery of the Great West" can not fail to remember that

Lachine (China) was the name of La Salle's home near Montreal. In whatever spirit it was given at first, it was destined to be written in blood on the pages of Canada's history. On the 200th anniversary of the Massacre of Lachine, Mr. Girouard was asked to give a lecture on the subject. This, subsequently enlarged and annotated, he brought out in pamphlet form under the title of "Le Vieux Lachine et le Massacre du 5 Aout, 1689." Two years later this was followed by "Les Anciens Fort de Lachine et Cavalier de la Salle, and in 1892 appeared "Les Anciennes Cotes du Saint Louis avec un Tableau des Anciens et Nouveaux Propriétaires." In every instance Mr. Girouard had gone for his authorities to the original sources, consulting the registers and maps in possession of the Seminary of Saint Sulpice, the official index and ancient title-deeds. The three pamphlets contain a mass of verified information of the most interesting character relating to the early settlement of Lachine and the adjacent parishes on the shore of Lake Saint Louis. The first and second were in French; the third in French and English. Naturally, those whose property was thus traced back for two hundred years or more desired to possess the history of it in a permanent form. But there were other reasons which gave peculiar interest to these gathered data concerning the home of the discoverer of the Mississippi. Whoever consults Charlevoix's History will find on the maps of the great lakes and of the Mississippi the names of *Chicagou* on the actual site of the World's Fair City, as the home of the great pioneer of the West and discoverer of that mighty river. Lachine is the starting-point of many goals, and of these goals in space and time the centre of the Columbian celebration is not the least noteworthy. To make the historic connection, Mr. Girouard prepared a Columbian edition of his three studies under the general title of "Lake St. Louis, Old and New, illustrated, and Cavalier La Salle." It is a timely reminder of the share of the Old Regime in the opening up of the interior of the continent to civilization, and the author has spared no pains to make it worthy of its theme.

Some time ago Dr. Kingsford, whose elaborate history of Canada I can only glance at in this survey, spared time from his great task to indicate Ontario's wealth in native books. Not the least valuable of the works published in Ontario in the period on this side of Dr. Kingsford's terminus are those of the class to which Dr. Canniff's "Settlement" and Mr. Canniff Haight's "Country Life" belong. Alas! with every year that passes, opportunities are lost of gathering from pioneers, and the sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters of pioneers, information of interest and value as to the years of striving under conditions that have vanished for ever. Colonization in the far north or north-west in our time, quickly followed, when it is not preceded by the railway, offers no point of comparison with the state of isolation, the irksome toil and soreness of travel which were the accepted lot of those who laid the foundations of Ontario. Any work that sheds light on the life of those harbingers should be greeted with cordial welcome. A third of a century ago Mr. James Croil led the way with his "Dundas," and, if space permitted, I would reproduce every word of his preface. Every county, indeed, should have its historian, if not,

indeed, as Mr. Sulte suggests, every parish or municipality. In "Lunenburg, or the Old Eastern District," by Judge J. F. Pringle, we have another contribution to the history of the peopling of Ontario, which the future historian will advantageously consult, while a still later essay of the same kind is the "Early Settlement and History of Glengarry," by Mr. J. A. MacDonell, of Greenfield. This last work, which is especially rich in military information, is dedicated to Sir Hugh Macdonell, K.C.M.G., C.B., (Aberchaldor), H. M. Envoy to the King of Denmark. Sir Hugh's father was the Speaker of the first House of Assembly of the Province of Ontario—a fact which suggests the mention of another volume belonging to the same class of literature. I mean Mr. Frank Yeigh's historical sketch of "Ontario's Parliament Buildings; or a Century of Legislation (1792-1892)." There is much in this book appropriately dedicated to Sir Oliver Mowat, K.C.M.G., which the inquirer will find so conveniently accessible in no other source of information. Retrospects of this kind, clustered around some historic structure as their centre of action, especially when copiously illustrated, affords opportunities for dramatic grouping, of which Mr. Yeigh has not neglected to avail himself. It must be remembered that the Front street building was the stage on which many of the political conflicts of the Union period were decided—the veterans of the Dominion Parliament, as well as of the Legislatures of Ontario and Quebec, having served there their apprenticeship as debaters and orators. It has also furnished a champion to one of the most bruited movements of our time in the Imperial House of Commons. The writings of the Rev. Dr. Scadding, of the late Mr. Dent, of the late Dr. Mulvaney, of Mr. G. Mercer Adam, of the Rev. Dr. Withrow, of Mr. Charles Lindsey and others have from various points of view elucidated one or other phase of the history of Ontario. I have already referred to the works of Dr. Canniff and Mr. Canniff Haight. I only wish there were more like them. I would also like to be able to point to more monographs of the type of Mr. Acton Burrow's "Annals of the Town of Guelph." All that throws light upon our *origines* and especially all data obtained from pioneers or their descendants must be of value to the historian.

A few years ago our survey would have virtually ended at Lake Superior. It seems to the middle aged amongst us only the other day that we were reading the thrilling adventures of Capt. Butler in the Great Lone Land. He who journeys across the plains no longer creeps feet foremost into a sack of skins after the fashion of those who seek the North Pole. Even the experiences of "From Ocean to Ocean" have been left far behind. It is, indeed, quite a time already since Dr. Sandford Fleming, C.M.G., published the supplement to Dr. Grant's narrative, "Old to New Westminster," and it will soon be a decade since that historic scene at Craigellachie was enacted. The centennial celebration of Sir Alexander Mackenzie's great achievement has come and gone, and voyages round the world, after the manner of Sir George Simpson, belong to ancient history. But, strange development, the land which the able governor of the Hudson's Bay Company had vainly attempted to deery with his lips, after having praised it with his pen, has become the favourite route to