

# REPORT ON HISTORICAL ARCHIVES.

DOUGLAS BRYMNER, ARCHIVIST.

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The Hon. JOHN CARLING,  
Minister of Agriculture,  
&c., &c., &c.

SIR,—I have the honour to present the report on Historical Archives for 1885.

Since the date of the last report, part of the Colonial Office Records, of which copies are being made in London, has been received, and the volumes are now accessible to historical investigators. The documents are those relating to the events immediately succeeding the Conquest, and contain a large amount of information respecting the establishment of Civil Government, the first indications of discontent in the Colonies, the conduct of the Canadians, both the new and old subjects, during the Revolutionary War, the difficulties which beset Carleton in his Government, the conduct of the war, including Burgoyne's operations, the establishment of peace, &c. The documents received to this date come down to 1790, with some blanks, the volumes wanting being still in the hands of the revisors in London. Every volume, it may be stated, is carefully compared and checked before being sent, and a further check being made in this office, and all doubtful points made the subject of investigation, it is believed that the utmost possible correctness has been secured, and that the papers deposited in the Archives Office are exact transcripts of the originals.

A portion has been received of the work at Rome, referred to in last report, more of which may shortly be expected.

Apart from the works treating of special topics, such, for instance, as the Relations and Journal of the Jesuits, the works of Champlain, &c., the foundation for the general history of the early settlement of Canada and occurrences down almost to the date of publication (1744), is to be found in Charlevoix. But a prolonged investigation has shown that there does not exist in Canada any complete series of the documents relating to the French *régime*. All the collections have been made for some particular object, a large number of documents having been collected to illustrate the history of the transactions between New France and New England, which, regarded in that light, are of great importance. But the papers are to a great extent simply extracts, everything having been omitted that did not bear on the immediate object in view, so that in as far as regards the internal his-