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ing the validity and expediency of alternative proposals which were discarded in adopting the course which was ultimately followed.

Foot-notes have been furnished as to necessary matters of facts connected with persons, places or events, and also giving references to further sources of information, but no attempt has been made to interpret any of the documents. The index which has been prepared, will, it is hoped, increase the value of this volume.

My own contribution to this useful work is very slight, I have merely collected and collated the documents, prepared the index, and made suggestions as to the method of arrangement. The editing of the volume, the valuable introduction and the notes, are the work of Professor Adam Shortt, M.A., F.R.S.C., of Queen's University.

The hearty co-operation accorded to the Archives Branch during the past year by scholars in the Dominion and the United States, will, I trust, extend to an organized co-operation in all parts where materials for history are to be found. There is evidently a desire for the exchange of information upon a reciprocal basis for the advancement of historical knowledge, and if this spirit is fostered, Canadian literature will benefit thereby, and expense will be saved to the country. During my visit to the South and Mexico I found the authorities of the Universities and of Historical Societies, eager to give access to the Canadian records they possess, in return for information we may be able to offer them concerning their own special field of enquiry.

The summary here printed has been prepared by the Rev. P. M. O'Leary. The report refers only to a small portion of the papers I met with during the short time I was able to devote to this work. It is sufficient, however, to warrant future excursions in search of records. For access to the Kaskaskia papers I am indebted to Professor Alvord, of Urbana. Records of Kaskaskia and of Cahokia have been found from time to time in different places, but a large portion was believed generally to have been lost. The story of the re-discovery of these documents by Professor Alvord, is here given in his own words, forming part of an address delivered before the Illinois State Historical Society, a few months ago :

"It is as an agent of the Illinois State Historical Library that I am here this morning to make a report, containing an announcement of interest and importance to students of the history of the Northwest, and particularly of that of Illinois. The Kaskaskia records long supposed to have been destroyed have been found.

"Found is perhaps too strong a word, for they never were lost, but the tradition of their total destruction has been given such wide currency by Mr. E. G. Mason in his publications on "John Todd" and John Todd's Record Book," and so deservedly high has been the estimate placed on his historical statements, that for all practical purposes they were lost.

"Last summer the trustees of the State Historical Library sent me into Southern Illinois to spend a month searching for historical materials. Much of interest was found, but the recovery of these supposedly destroyed Kaskaskia papers was the most unexpected and important find. Some information had reached me, before setting out, that my search in Chester would not be unrewarded, for I learned from several sources that record books and papers dating from the eighteenth century were in the office of the circuit clerk, and I cherished the hope that where some were, others might not be far off.

"My task was far easier than I could have anticipated. After looking over three old French record books, which were in plain sight on the shelves, search was made for further papers. No occult science was required. On top of the cases in the circuit clerk's office, behind a cornice which surmounts them, were found three large sacks and four paper packages full of old papers. Upon investigation half of them