

phenomenon might have followed the conjunction of the *Annus Domini*; and find that it would have led the Persian or Chaldean Pilgrims directly toward Bethlehem. Such is, in brief, the argument of the work; but it is wrought out with great amplitude of statement, and by strict logical processes. The author is deeply imbued with the spirit of orientalism. His portraiture of scenery and characters is graphic, and his insight into motives and principles is piercing and philosophic. The book is a valuable contribution to popular exegesis of Holy Scripture.

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*France and England in North America.* A series of Historical Narratives. Part First. *The Pioneers of France in the New World.* By FRANCIS PARKMAN. Eleventh Edition. 1874. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 8vo. pp. xxii., 427. Steel portrait and map.

IN his series of works under the above title, Parkman tells the romantic story of French colonization and exploration in the New World. It is one of fascinating interest, and it has lost none of its charm through the manner of its treatment by the accomplished historian. Every Canadian ought to be familiar with these volumes. Nowhere else, unless he have access to the original documents, can he get such a full and vivid portraiture of the storied past of his own country. We shall feel that we are doing a patriotic as well as a literary service if we can induce many of our readers to enter upon the study of this important and interesting phase of the history of their native or adopted land. We purpose reviewing consecutively these books, and by their aid presenting to our readers sketches, as graphic as we can portray, of some of the principal Canadian historic characters of that early period and of their heroic achievements. We hope thus to give a distinctively national flavour to our Magazine, and to stimulate an intelligent acquaintance

with our country's past. The first volume of this series consists of two parts; the former describing the Huguenot occupation of Florida, and the latter the adventures of Champlain and his associates.

"The story of New France," says Parkman, "opens with a tragedy. The political and religious enmities, which were soon to bathe Europe in blood, broke out with an intense and concentrated fury in the distant wilds of Florida." Coligny and his fellow Huguenots essayed to build up a colonist France in America, but the effort was thwarted by a bloody massacre. The bigotry of the Spaniards, who had planted a colony at St. Augustine, was aroused. It was resolved that the Huguenot heretics must be extirpated. The task was accomplished with only too ruthless success. Nine hundred hapless Protestants were butchered and the derisive inscription affixed to a tree: 'These wretches have not been thus treated because they were Frenchmen, but because they were heretics and the enemies of God.' They were terribly avenged by their countryman, De Gourgues. Like a Nemesis of wrath, he fell upon the Spanish garrison on the very scene of the massacre, put them to the sword or hanged them on trees, on which was emblazoned the retributive legend: 'I do this, not as unto Spaniards, but as unto traitors, robbers and murderers.' So ended in blood French Protestant colonization in America."

The noble career of Champlain, the founder of Quebec and father of French colonization in Canada, and the discoverer of lakes Huron, Simcoe, Ontario, and that which bears his name, will be made the subject of a special article.

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*God's Word through Preaching.* By Rev. JOHN HALL, D.D. Methodist Book Room, Toronto.

DR. John Hall, of New York, is one of the most popular ministers of the present day. His congregation is one of the largest and most