

impress of that figure is so marked that it is seen upon the following page.

In a letter which I have in my possession, written by the author to Stephen Sewell, Esq., at Montreal, dated Quebec, December 12th, 1811, he says :

“ My long-delayed history appears about the 5th January. It contains, with the appendix, 460 pages, royal 8vo. Will it sell at Montreal ? Pray enquire, and I will send up some copies.” It is to be presumed that this only covers the first volume, for the size of the book really is— Vol. I. 383 pages and appendix 72 pages, and Vol. II. 235 pages. I may say the second volume also bears the alteration in the date that I have spoken of.

This letter is endorsed :—“ The above refers to William Smith’s History of Canada; although he anticipated the appearance of his work within a few weeks after the above was written, yet it was not printed until 1815, and then from some unknown cause was not allowed to make its appearance in the world for many years after, viz., in 1826.”

In this interval it was entombed in the garret of the printer, John Neilson (afterwards Hon). As it was printed for the author, and the author was a notoriously “ bad pay,” the reasons for this long entombment may easily be imagined.

In the letter of Mr. Smith, before referred to, he also said :—“ Our little snipe of a Governor wants to make himself popular by dining everywhere, but this will not do, and I am sorry to say that he has no one about him of sufficient talents to put him in the right road. What a difference between the two Governors—Sir James conducted himself like a king, Sir George, after him, appears a puny little thing.”

The Sir James “ who conducted himself like a king ” was Sir James Henry Craig, Governor from the autumn of 1807 to June, 1811, and he was succeeded by the “ little snipe,” the “ puny little thing,”—Sir George Prévost.