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'THE EARLY YEARS OF THREE RIVERS'*

BY WM. KINGSFORD, C.E., OTTAWA.

THIS volume, from the pen of Mr. B. Sulte, is, in every way, creditable to him. It is the result of reading and care, and is marked throughout by good taste and good feeling. Naturally Mr. Sulte writes as a French-Canadian. His motto is *faire aimer la patrie*, and he feels a laudable pride in the courage and endurance of his ancestors. Himself a native of Three Rivers, this work is a record of the early times of the city. Gathered from original sources of inquiry, it must have been a labour of love. It contains much which, in our condition of knowledge, is original and trustworthy; and we do not doubt but hereafter future writers of history will quote his pages as an authority. The style is pleasing and animated, so that, barren of interest and matter of fact as many of the incidents naturally must be, he makes pleasant reading out of much that is common-place. The task Mr. Sulte has set himself is

to trace the history of an infant settlement, until it outgrew the troubles and trials which for forty years threatened its existence. His effort is to bring back these times vividly before us, and hence he portrays scenes of every day life, of which the account can have interest only from the view in which he places them, and from the memories the events themselves awaken.

Two important events changed the whole aspect of the world. The application of movable types to printing by Faust and Guttenberg, during the second half of the fifteenth century, and the Reformation, to which the stimulus given by printing to human intelligence, to a considerable extent, led some years later. We do not say this from what is called the Protestant stand-point. When Luther commenced his crusade against the Papacy of that date, he had on his side men like Erasmus, Dean Colet, and Sir Thomas More. No one with greater bitterness assailed the corruptions of the hour than Erasmus; but he hesitated when his companions went forward. But if his advance in opinion

* *Chronique Trifluvienne*, par Benjamin Sulte. Montreal: Compagnie d'Imprimerie Canadienne, 1879.