

addressed to the Empress Catherine II., is as if a historian were to credit a despatch of 1897 or 1898 to the reign of King Edward VII., and quote it as addressed to His Majesty. Which, as Euclid says, is absurd."

Now what is the history of these documents which are so mysterious to my critic.

When the late abbé Verreau was in Quebec, examining certain documents which are published in the *Siege* he was asked if he thought there might be any papers in the Russian documents mentioned by him, (which by the way had been indicated in a bibliography already) and he said it was impossible to tell. Monseigneur Laflamme, however, thought that there were some documents relating to the period and a search was instigated.

After a very interesting correspondence extending over 15 months, the papers published in Vol. IV. were located in Moscow in the custody of Prince Galitzine. Monseigneur Laflamme, while visiting Russia with the late abbé Verreau, had become acquainted with the family of Prince Galitzine, and he therefore kindly consented to supplement the request of the authors for copies of the papers. In the course of time the copies which I have before me were sent to the University of Laval with two very courteous letters, one addressed to the Rector and one to the authors.

The documents were translated chiefly from the Russian, and signed by the translator, under whose signature appears this certificate in the handwriting of the Prince "Par copie conforme P^{ce} P. Galitzine."

It would appear from the information given that many of the original dispatches are of considerable length, and only those portions which relate to Quebec have been copied.