

"In addition to the larger and more general collections, a considerable number of original warrants for the payment of officials, clergy, schoolmasters, pensioners, and others, besides accounts relating to the Lake Marine, to the Indian and other Departments, was added. These also I arranged and had bound in 197 volumes. They are fully indexed, and have been found to be of great service in the settlement of questions in dispute. Then there have been smaller lots, constantly added to, consisting of family papers, including such documents as original accounts and journals of the Invasion of Canada in 1775, correspondence relating to the War of 1812, Indian treaties, early settlements, and many of a purely local nature. These are bound, but not yet indexed; all received are arranged and bound immediately after their reception.

"As it seemed an obvious duty to gather up the scattered threads of the occupation by the French of a large portion of North America, copies were procured of the old Acadian registers, so far as these were obtainable. That work has been going on since, so far as pecuniary means would allow. Copies of many of the church registers of the old French settlements in the West have also been obtained and are now on the shelves.

"The report on Archives for 1882, to which I beg to refer, shows the extent of the ground to be covered, if the Archives are to be in any degree of use to the Dominion as a whole, instead of degenerating into a merely local collection of documents. I therefore conceived it to be absolutely necessary to set about the work of collecting, as at least a beginning, the printed journals, sessional papers, departmental reports, &c., of all the Provinces. The attempt to obtain the earliest of these records has been fairly successful. The gathering of them as they are issued; the securing of pamphlets, new and old, even of fly sheets, has been carefully attended to. In several cases, the early Provincial records in printed form are much more complete than those in the libraries of the Provincial Legislatures.

"In 1881 I obtained the services of one clerical assistant. That year I went to London to make arrangements for completing the copying of all the documents relating to Canada in the British Museum. As the report for 1881 contains all that is of importance concerning that visit, I think it only necessary to say further, that in dealing with the question of the grant to Sir William Alexander, the Lord Stirling so well known in connection with Nova Scotia, I was not satisfied with the papers relating to that Province, but obtained also a considerable number of documents concerning New England, the entanglement of Lord Stirling's affairs with those of Gorges and Mason appearing to render that necessary.

"If I have been too prolix in entering into these details, I must apologise for taking up the time of a meeting like this. It has been done partly to show that no really good work of this kind springs into being suddenly; that it is a process requiring time and labour, but that the difficulties of forming such a collection are not insuperable. Patience is needed, above all watchfulness and perseverance. The man entrusted with the work must make up his mind that it is to be accomplished, and undertake it, not as a heavy task, but as something to rouse his faculties. Nor is the expense deadly. There has never been a sum of more than \$6,000 annually voted by Parliament for this service. It requires great economy in management; it is not always sufficient, but any excess of expenditure beyond the grant is speedily checked.

"I shall be very brief in what remains. In 1883 I returned to London and obtained from the Imperial Government much more favourable conditions for transcribing the State papers than the rules in force allowed, many restrictions being removed, which were found to impede the work.

"In July 1883, Mr. Joseph Marmette was appointed Assistant Archivist, and entered on the work of investigation in Paris. I would refer you to the reports for 1883, 1885, 1886 and 1887, for Mr. Marmette's account of the documents in Paris, which I feel sure will be found interesting. We are ready to begin the work of copying there, when Parliament shall see fit to grant a sufficient amount for the purpose. What I did that year in London, for the time I could be spared from duty