

authority. The narrative of an Indian scout, or of a deserter, even though partly or entirely erroneous, becomes itself a part of history, when it leads to military movements or preparations, and we cannot duly estimate the merit of events, without understanding all the causes which operated in producing them.

The author doubtless prepared these memoirs as his own justification in the affairs with which he had been concerned, and he freely presents his own merits upon every occasion; yet we find nothing inconsistent in his career as an honest, brave and energetic officer, inspired with honorable ambition, and an earnest zeal for the success of the French arms. The entire freedom with which he speaks of the corruptions of the administration, is a sufficient proof that he was not a partner to the frauds which hastened the downfall of the French in Canada.

Although this work has been in the hands of historians engaged upon the special period to which it relates, it is scarcely known in our public libraries, or in private collections of American history. We are indebted to the library of Harvard University in Cambridge, for the use of the copy from which this translation was prepared. Our especial thanks are due to Mr. J. Langdon Sibley, the accomplished librarian of that institution, for facilities which have been of the greatest service.

It will be observed that the original edition was printed in Switzerland, fourteen years after the author's death, under the care of an editor whose name does not appear. It is probable that some restriction of government, upon publications of this class, may have occasioned its issue beyond the limits of France.

The notes of the original edition are in all cases designated, and to those which we have added, we have usually given the authorities upon which based, or from whence derived.

F. B. H.

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