

of sifting the materials and composing the work was begun and finished. The papers were repeatedly read aloud, copious notes and extracts were made, and the narrative written down from my dictation."

In spite of this trouble with his sight, and other distressing ailments, Parkman was intensely thorough in all the preparations for his work. He neglected not the smallest source of information, and his histories are noted for their accuracy and impartiality as well as for their vividness and literary style. To quote Fiske again: "This elaborateness of preparation had its share in producing the intense vividness of Mr. Parkman's descriptions. Profusion of detail made them seem like the accounts of an eye-witness. The realism is so strong that the author seems to have come in person fresh from the scenes he described, with the smoke of the battle hovering about him, and its fierce light glowing in his eyes."

One other subject must be mentioned in estimating the value of Parkman's histories. This was his portrayal of the Indian. Through the previously mentioned circumstances of his