

tory of his province, which, if too expensive to buy for his own library, should be bought for the school library or by the co-operation of the local history club he will form, for it is not well to attempt to study all alone. If the student does not know which is the best history, he should write for advice to the secretary of the historical society in the capital of his province. All of the provinces have historical societies in their capitals, and the secretary, whose name it is not necessary to know in writing to him, will usually be found glad to give full advice to every earnest inquirer. From the same source, also, the student may ascertain what has been published upon the special history of his own county or parish, and he should thoroughly study everything of this kind. It is well for the student, especially at the outset, to select a somewhat limited region for his studies, such as a county or parish, one which he can readily travel over in his holidays, and with which he can make himself personally acquainted.

The history of any region falls into periods, and, for a country like Canada, these are somewhat as follows :

First, there is the geographical position, surface features, climate, soil, natural productions in animals and plants of the region. These features exercise an immensely important part in determining the future history of any country, a part whose significance has only of late years been recognized. Hence any consideration of the history of a region now-a-days begins with a consideration of the physiography and natural history of the country with especial reference to their effects upon its settlement and later history. Indeed, there is no more interesting study than this investigation into the relation between the natural features and productions of a country and its history, present settlement, industries and distribution of population ; and the local student will here find abundant and pleasing material for observation and reflection. Aside from their historical aspects, however, these subjects are worthy of the minutest investigation for their own sakes by those of scientific tastes, and investigators of wider interests always welcome such local studies if carried out in the proper spirit. The present writer has elsewhere given such advice as he can upon this particular subject for New Brunswick.¹

Second, in nearly all regions in Canada where white men now live, the Indians dwelt before them. Every fact about these Indians and their lives and works is not only already of interest and eagerly sought by students of such matters at the present day, but the facts will become increasingly valued with time, and are all worthy of record. The student should gather data as to the situations of Indian settlements, burial grounds, and routes of travel. Most

¹ Biological Opportunity in New Brunswick. Bulletin of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick, No. XVII, page 131.