

own satisfaction, will thank him for the bibliographies with which he has prefaced his chapters.\*

#### THE FRENCH PERIOD.

Of works that embrace the French period of our history, the best known is Dr. Parkman's series. As yet there is a hiatus to be filled—the interval between the death of Frontenac and the beginning of the war that ended in the capitulation at Montreal. That gap will, I believe, be shortly closed. On the historical value of Parkman's works, the brilliancy of the style, the vivid pictures that they supply of the most romantic and stirring scenes in the story of the Old Régime, it is needless to dwell. A work of conscientious research for the same period is the "*Cours d'Histoire du Canada*," of the late Abbé Ferland. The writings of clergymen almost always show a bias for their own church. Ferland, though he writes as a Catholic and a Frenchman, and gives much attention to church affairs, is inspired throughout by an evident desire to be fair and honest. In his statement of facts he manifests an anxiety to set forth the truth, and the truth only. His two compact volumes are rich stores of manifold knowledge, which shed light on events and characters that previous authors had left obscure.

Dr. Miles has compressed the most salient of the characteristics and events of the same period into one moderately sized volume, which may be read with pleasure and profit. Warburton's "*Conquest of Canada*" has not ceased to be consulted, though the title is somewhat misleading. It is a

\* The first French history of Canada, according to M. Lareau, was prepared by Dr. Jacques Labrie. He died, however, on the 26th of October, 1831, before he was able to publish it. M. Morin was entrusted with the manuscript, and the Legislature made a grant towards the printing of it. The troubles that had their tragic termination in 1837-38 intervened, however, between the design and its accomplishment, and the manuscript was destroyed by fire at the sack of St. Benoit.