

It will perhaps be noticed that previous to 1674, there are no despatches or communications from the Duke of York or his secretary, to his officers in New-York; and but few from them, to His Royal Highness. The first Entry Book, or Record of Letters from the Duke, commences with 1674; and from that period they are tolerably well preserved. There are several deficiencies in the series of letters from Governor Nicholls; and very few of Governor Lovelace's communications were found. There does not seem to have been any file of Governor Andros' letters to the Duke, or Sir John Worden, handed to the Committee for Trade and Plantations, when the affairs of the Province came under its supervision, upon the devolution of New-York to the crown, on the accession of King James II.; but after that date the records are much more perfect. After the final organization of the Board of Trade, by King William III., in 1696, the New-York papers are full and complete.

The policy of France in regard to her Canadian Possessions—the establishment of her military positions on our frontiers—and her negotiations with the Indian tribes on our borders, and within the very limits of our territory itself, are directly and intimately connected with our Colonial History; and her long struggle to maintain her influence in the northern portion of our continent, affected, in no small degree, the condition, disposition and purposes of the People of New-York. It was with a view of obtaining authentic historical materials illustrating these points, that an examination of the archives of the French Government was made a part of my duty.

Having made some progress in my researches in London, and commenced the transcription of documents there, I wrote to General Cass, then minister of the United States at Paris, explaining the objects of the State, and requesting his intervention with the French Government, for the purpose of procuring me permission to examine its archives, for papers relating to Canada and New-York. A simple statement of my object, was all that was necessary to awaken the warmest interest of that eminent gentleman; and he forthwith applied on my behalf, to Admiral Baron Duperré, then Minister of the Marine and the Colonies, for permission to examine the papers relating to Canada in the Bureaus of his Department. An answer was promptly returned, authorizing me to make the researches I wished, without limitation; and adding, that "all the facilities he can desire, will be