

for many years the offices of Deputy Clerk Register and Registrar-General of births, &c. These conjoined offices are now held by Mr. Stair Agnew.

The Deputy Keeper of the Records has the immediate custody and arrangement of all the registers permanently deposited in the General Register House; the superintendence of all searches, besides other duties. The office is now held by Mr. William Fraser, whose valuable domestic histories of the old families of Scotland, and their connection with public events in that kingdom, chiefly founded on the private muniments of families, are well known.

The method of keeping the records, with the indexes, catalogues, &c., is of too technical a nature for this report, but I may be permitted to cite, as an instance of the manner of giving publicity to the results of public inquiries, the index to the deaths in the Registrar-General's Department. In this annual index the name of every man, woman and child dying during the year can be found at once, all being arranged in alphabetical order, with ages attached and references for complete information as to the deceased. I was assured by Mr. David Winter, the clerk in charge, that there were not five names omitted in a year, the omissions being those of persons whose bodies could not be identified. Printed reports regarding the registers, dating from 1807 to 1868, by the Deputy Clerk Register, besides Parliamentary papers on the same subject, I have deposited among the Archives, and the other information I have obtained will be useful for conducting the office work.

The information I obtained in Paris is such as will be of service in the work of the office. Having taken advantage of the delay caused by waiting for the Colonial Office to put me in communication with the other Departments, so as to occupy time which would otherwise have been wasted, I did not feel justified in spending many days there, and, so far as I could ascertain during my stay, the expenses for collecting and preserving the Archives are not kept separate, being included in the expenditure of the different Departments and public libraries.

The collection of papers in the Department at Ottawa is valuable, including, as it does, the original military correspondence of the officers in command in Canada for a hundred years, during a great part of which time the civil and military rule was, to some extent, in the same hands; the Haldimand and Bouquet papers, immediately prior, and subsequent to the revolutionary war; miscellaneous manuscripts, and a considerable collection of printed documents and volumes. But although the collection is valuable, it is fragmentary, as there is no complete series relating to any single period. As an instance, there is a most valuable collection of original letters relating to military affairs during the war of 1812-15, from Sir Gordon Drummond, Sir Isaac Brock, Generals Proctor, Sheaffe, Sir John Cope Sherbrooke, and other commanding officers; but there are few letters from De Rottenburg, and but a scrap or two from De Salaberry, whose operations on the Chateauguay are scarcely noticed, Sir George Prevost's reports being altogether wanting. In the Haldimand collection there are tantalizing references to the negotiations with Vermont during the revolutionary war, but the most important correspondence is not amongst the papers. In the volume improperly entitled: "Correspondence with General Haldimand after his appointment as Governor of Quebec," there is a valuable series of letters from Dr. Mabane, Mr. Jenkyn Williams, Attorney-General, and others. The correspondence was in reality after Haldimand had ceased to be Governor. He was then in London, lost in the undistinguished crowd of that great city, harrassed by law suits instituted by men whom he had imprisoned on suspicion of maintaining treasonable correspondence; was haunting levees, gossiping at clubs, and losing guineas nightly at *ecarté*. The letters from his Quebec correspondents at this time are unreserved, full of gossip, and laying bare the personal piques, political aims, and jealousies of Lord Dorchester's advisers and friends. But the correspondence and