



Whether or not there be justification for the complaint that there is no school text-book of Canadian history worthy of our country, there never was a period in our annals when historical research found more strenuous and enlightened workers than at present. During the last five years the number of works on almost every phase of our development—some of them works of high merit, based on original sources of knowledge long inaccessible—has been extraordinary. Not a month passes that does not bring us some valuable addition in the form of narrative, criticism or *piece justificative* to this important department of our native literature. One of the latest of these additions is from the pen of Mr. Desiré Girouard, Q.C., M.P., and is entitled "Le Vieux Lachine et le Massacre du 5 Aout, 1689." As our readers are aware, the dreadful interruption to the peace and prosperity of the young colony, of which this title reminds us, was commemorated by a memorial fête of which one of the features was the recounting of the tragedy. The task fell to Mr. Girouard, and better selection could not have been made of a historiographer. On every page of the volume we find evidence of patient and painstaking search after truth—a search which has certainly not been fruitless. Mr. Girouard's professional experience and acquaintance with the depositories of ancient documents bearing on the grant and transfer of property stood him in good stead. He has carefully examined all the printed records relative to the topography and annals of Lachine, including the massive volumes recently issued by the Quebec Government. He has naturally made the massacre the central incident in his critical narrative. Among those who heard the lecture, as originally delivered, were several descendants of the victims of the Iroquois' vengeance, to whom the recital of the fearful drama must have been intensely interesting. But the historian does not pause there. He takes his reader past the scene and hour of terror and desolation and pictures for them the rebuilt settlement, the destined starting-point of trade and missions and exploration for nearly two centuries; the sign-post of north-western discovery, the living prophecy to generation after generation of that true passage to the Orient, which is the grandest triumph of our own time. La Salle is, of course, the leading figure. His portrait forms the frontispiece, his signature closes the letterpress. Mr. Girouard dispels an illusion as to the site of La Salle's manor house, but his researches have enhanced the interest which every student of history must feel in the topography of Lachine. There is, indeed, no spot on the American continent more fascinating through its association with the past. The illustrations comprise a reproduction of M. de Catalogne's plan of Fort Remy, as it was in 1671; a view of the Cuillerier mansion, as Mr. Girouard designates the old building on the Fraser farm, erected he thinks, after 1700; the old church, built in 1701 and demolished, after being sold to the Pères Oblats, in 1869; the house of Messrs. Le Ber and Charles Le Moyne de Longueuil, now occupied by the Wilgress family; and an extract from the Plan Terrier of the Island of Montreal, copied by Mr. J. A. U. Beaudry from the original in the Archives of the Seminary of Saint Sulpice. Other documents that add to the value of the history are a table of the inhabitants of Lachine in 1689; a list of the victims of the massacre and census of Lachine in 1681 from Mr. B. Sulte's *Histoires des Canadiens-Français*.

We have much pleasure in greeting the re-appearance of the *Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Journal*—Volume I, of the second series. The back numbers of this excellent periodical—the organ of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal, whose quarter centennial medal has the place of honour, are now invaluable. The Hon. Judge Baby, whose head adorns the medal, is still president of the Society—the Hon. Edward Murphy, Senator, being first vice-president; Mr. Charles T. Hart, 2nd vice-president; Mr. W. D. Lighthall, secretary; Mr. Roswell C. Lyman, treasurer, and Mr. J. A. U. Beaudry, curator. In the salutatory remarks that open the new series, the editors are fain to accept the *Antiquarian's* thirteen years of existence as evidence that such a medium of intercommunication is prized by those concerned in the questions with which it deals. A paper of unusual interest on "Canadian Communion Tokens," by Mr. R. W. McLachlan; a contribution on the "Services of the Hertel Family," by Mr. A. C. de Lery Macdonald; an article of exceptional interest by Mr. G. M. Fairchild, jr., of New York, on "The First Canadian Coin," and a number of other communications make up a number which gives good ground to hope that the new series will be no less valuable than the old to students of Canadian antiquities. The editing committee is composed of Messrs. H. Mott, R. W. McLachlan and A. C. de Lery Macdonald, to any of whom subscriptions and correspondence may be addressed, P.O. Box, 1310, Montreal. Terms, \$1.50 per annum in advance. The *Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Journal* is published by Messrs. D. English & Company, 30 St. George street, Montreal.

We have received the "Report of Proceedings of the Association of Dominion Land Surveyors at its sixth annual meeting, held at Ottawa, February 19, 20 and 21, 1889," which contains much valuable information on matters intimately associated with the development of the Dominion.

We shall take an early opportunity of referring at greater length to some of its contents. The Report was printed for the Association by Messrs. John Lovell & Son.

Every year adds to the number of the periodicals issued from the press of the Old World and the New. The mass of reading matter on every topic of interest, literary, scientific, political, religious, professional and economic thus submitted to the world of readers has increased so amazingly that only by some plan of careful selection can one derive any real edification from it. Of course, a good deal of what appears in the magazines and reviews is of merely ephemeral value. Still, when the extent and constant expansion of such literature is taken into account, the proportion that is of permanent worth as well as of current interest is by no means trivial. But how to make the choice and how to preserve it—that is a somewhat perplexing problem to solve. Even the most omnivorous reader, whose means are on a par with his literary appetite, can master the contents of but a small fraction of the ever enlarging whole. And as to preserving what he deems most useful for future reference, he finds the task virtually impossible. This task has, however, been satisfactorily discharged, during nearly half a century, for thousands of American and Canadian readers by the publishers of *Littell's Living Age*. This eclectic magazine, appearing every week, gives, while still fresh, what is of most moment in the whole range of European periodical literature. As we have had an opportunity of watching its course for a quarter of a century or more—taking it regularly for fifteen years—we can bear witness, from a journalist's standpoint, to the judgment, taste and unvarying opportuneness of its selections. It saves time and money, enabling the student of current events and literature, for a trifling weekly payment, to keep abreast with the best and latest results of literary criticism, scientific research, political discussion, travel, exploration, and every other phase of culture and progress in the Old World. For consultation, the bound volumes form a rich store of miscellaneous information covering the period from 1844 to the present year. A complete set of *Littell's Living Age* (five series to the end of 1888) contains an amount of valuable reading, illustrative of modern progress during what may be called the scientific era *par excellence* to be met with in no other work with which we are acquainted. Colleges, schools, public libraries and other institutions could make no more profitable investment. To the student of his own time, its life, literature and varied progress, we can confidently recommend it as the best of eclectics and the most satisfying of magazines. The numbers for the month of October contain selections from the *Fortnightly*, the *Contemporary*, *Blackwood*, *Temple Bar*, *Macmillan's Magazine*, the *Gentleman's Magazine*, the *Nineteenth Century*, the *London Quarterly Review*, *Longman's Magazine*, *Murray's Magazine*, the *National Review*, the *Academy*, the *Spectator*. Price, \$8 a year, for 52 weekly numbers, making four quarterly volumes of 824 pages each. Boston: Littell & Co., (31 Bedford street.)

#### SIGNAL.

The brave March morn  
Is white and still  
And crisp and froze.  
In a cleft of the hill  
From his low tent door  
The Warrior Sun  
Gets up from sleep,  
And something awakes  
On the plains afar.  
No sound is borne  
On the windless weather.  
Only, abreast  
And aflame together,  
Above the white crest  
Of that tent in the dawn,  
Unfurled with a sweep,  
The signal pennons  
Are out for war.  
For one last fight  
In this border feud,—  
One cheer and aflay,  
Till the rebel brood  
Break up and away,—  
We left our home  
In the quiet valley  
Where burns run on  
To the twilight's bar.  
The leaguer of night  
In the trenches of time  
Shall quail and be wrung,  
When the bugles at prime  
Take breath and give tongue  
To the spirit of man,  
And under their rally  
The host of dawn  
Is awake for war.  
Yea, the serfs of despair  
Shall decamp and depart,  
Disperse and deploy,  
Till manhood's heart  
Is the lord of joy,  
Made pure of lust,  
And clean of sorrow,  
As the white planets  
Of morning are.

Gird we, and fare  
To the battle's front!  
And hold you dumb  
In the stress and brunt,  
So victory come!  
We fight to-day,  
We march to-morrow,  
And three days hence  
Is the end of war.  
Leave guerdon and gain  
For a prize to kings;  
For what dost thou  
With the sharers of things?  
Free born, even now  
In the dayspring of years,  
With the children of light  
Thou art sealed and chosen  
For evermore.  
Beat down like rain  
On the ruin of winter;  
Smite up like sun  
To crumble and splinter  
One after one  
The bulwarks of dark  
In the cordon of night,  
Till the herald of peace  
Is the slayer of war.  
Low, clear,  
Under the dawn  
To yearn and aspire  
There stirs and is gone—  
Something desire  
Takes heed to learn,  
As wind may unravel  
The rainbird's song  
When the rain is hoar;  
Takes heed to hear,—  
To capture a-race  
On the weather-gleam,  
As a passing face  
Will refashion a dream  
Lost long ago,—  
Ere ever the travail  
Of time began,  
Or earth was set  
For a ravelin of war;  
Takes heed to follow  
A trace to find,  
A trail to pursue  
Secret and blind  
As the way of the dew  
On windflowers over  
The wind's highway,  
Bowing their reverence  
Star by star;  
Takes heed as a swallow  
Takes heart to go  
With the sun and the rain,  
The regions of snow  
To rejoice and regain,  
Norward alone  
For a scout of May,  
When Spring draws on  
To the seasons' war:  
Only the call  
Of a wild brown thing,  
The sharp sweet cry  
For delight in the Spring  
When dawn goes by,—  
A sparrow that hears  
His mountain river  
Go joying down  
To the sea with a roar!  
Can this be all?  
A lyric burst  
Put the world to rights?  
The storm dispersed  
By harbour lights?  
Why have we dreamed  
Of one to deliver  
The slaves and children  
Of fate and war?  
Was not the rote  
Of the sea for herald  
A champion lord  
Should free this perilled  
Camp with his sword?  
Where is the captain  
Of the world  
No fame should measure  
Nor failure mar?  
Listen! Afloat  
On the quiet weather,  
From low unto loud,  
Alone or together,  
Crowd after crowd  
On the battle verge,  
Is broken and hurled  
The blare of clarions  
Loosed for war.

Fredericton, N.B.

BLISS CARMAN.