

truction those monuments of early times that were fast becoming obliterated and lost sight of. In pursuists of this kind, however, there is a fascination that gains upon one. Many singular occurrences appeared in manuscript or print quite well authenticated, regarding which no tradition or discourse existed in this country, where they had taken place; and the letters of the French governors, including the journal of Villebon, gave the most vivid impression, in reading them, of the times and the people they described. The letters of Mascarene and Pichon were exceedingly interesting, (as well as the journal of Witherspoon, a British prisoner at Quebec in 1759, not introduced to notice in my work, as having little connection with our province.) Much of the matter I had necessarily to read through could not have been incorporated with this history without swelling its bulk beyond all reasonable dimensions; yet there was a charm in the perusal which I could but partially enjoy, being ever and anon reminded by the flight of Time, of the necessity of recurring to such passages as could be condensed into text, or might form useful appendices. The works of Charlevoix, Champlain, Denys and Lescarbot, on the discoveries and history of New France, would supply most agreeable studies for years, to those who wished to learn much of the natural history, geography and early events of this continent, particularly of these maritime provinces. I am glad to know that the government propose to publish a specimen volume of our earlier records and documents, as this will enable reading persons in general to estimate their value.

I now take my leave, at all events for a season, (if not finally), of my readers, and it is right that I should express the gratitude I have felt at the kind and indulgent reception these pages have met with, and the flattering comments occasionally