

BIBLIOGRAPHIE

CANADIANA—AMERICANA

THE BATTLE OF CHATEAUGUAY

We quote with pleasure from the Montreal *Herald* of October 21st, the following review of Mr. Sulte's last book :

Mr. Sulte, the author of the *Histoire des Canadiens-Français* and numerous other writings, is the chief historian of French Canada, judged as well by his wide knowledge as by his untrammelled spirit of investigation. In many directions he has been an enlightened iconoclast ; in each also a benevolent reconstructor ; and in no matter of French-Canadian history has iconoclasm been more necessary or reconstruction more welcome. Until a few years ago the battle of Chateauguay was a public property legend ; its story was embellished according to the taste of each narrator ; the marvels of its heroism were likened to those of Thermopylæ ; it flowed with rivers of gore ; it abounded in mighty charges ; Magenta, Waterloo, the Pyramids, sank into insignificance under the wand of the fête-day orator or poet. Then some English writers examined the facts and found an event whose strength and weakness were altogether different. The Thermopylæan battle, with great struggles and heavy losses, disappeared ; but in its stead appeared a strange and interesting movement with a modest but solid credit of its own, and an import whose full momentousness only the future of the American continent—possibly of civilization itself—can measure ; for by it—by the skill of the commander and the stubborn daring of a few of his assistants—the Canadian nation and country were preserved for whatever may be their destiny. It has been the task of Mr. Sulte in the present volume to do more perfectly than has yet been done, and for the first time in the French language, this work of stripping away frippery from fact, and of replacing De Salaberry and the action in their proper lights and proportions. The outlines of the story are now not unknown to our readers : The outbreak of the war of 1812, the advance of General Hampton from Four Corners down the Chateauguay to attack Montreal ; the forays led by De Salaberry at various