

attention, namely, the Russian dispatches. I made no claim for these documents beyond the fact that they were previously unknown.

The Editor of *Old and New* refers to them in these words :

" The MSS. bearing on the siege that were found in Moscow, extracts from which are given in volume IV. (Appendix, Part I.), are said to have been addressed (mainly during the summer and fall of 1759) to the Empress Catherine II. The translation from Russian to French was made, we are told, under direction of Prince Galitzine. This statement makes it all the harder to account for the curious anachronisms that characterizes the whole series. No. I., for instance, reads in English as follows :—" Extract from a despatch of the 14th. of October, 1759, No. 43, to the Empress Catherine II., by the Count Michael Bestoujev Rumine, ambassador of Russia at Paris." Then follows a report of the taking of Quebec, beginning thus : " Hier soir le bruit s'est répandu ici, comme quoi la ville de Québec a été prise par les Anglais, etc.," as if the cable were in full swing. This peculiarity, with the additional fact that Catherine II did not ascend the throne until nearly three years later, tends to puzzle the simple-minded reader. It is quite possible that, in making the extracts, the officials who carried out Prince Galitzine's directions, adapted the record in the journal, wherein, of course, the entry of a distant event was made days, weeks or months after its occurrence, to the usage of an age in which a diarist may jot down at night what happened in China, Cairo or Madrid in the morning. The dislocation, however, when it comes to years, we cannot pretend to rectify. That an educated Russian should suppose a despatch of October 14, 1759, to have been