

making up of the next day's paper is in itself a training for work of this kind. Like the medicine prescribed by the Greek physician Douban to the leprous King of Persia, which was absorbed by exercise, as told in the veritable Arabian Nights, the contents of the documents seemed to be absorbed rather than taken in by any slower process, and thus the work went on from day to day. I may express, parenthetically, my thankfulness that, rapidly as the work was done, I find in indexing that few errors were committed in the arrangement. The documents were then bound, the work proceeding like that on Solomon's Temple, 'neither hammer, nor axe, nor any tool of iron was heard while the house was building.' In other words, I kept everything as quiet as possible, until some progress had been made in the work of collecting and arranging.

"The collection of which I now speak covers a period from about 1785 to 1870. It largely relates to military affairs in the Provinces, including the preparations to meet anticipated hostilities consequent on the first French Revolution; original records of the War of 1812; the strained relations between Great Britain and the United States for some years previous to the declaration of war; the Rebellion in Canada in 1837-8, with the proceedings of the sympathisers from the United States. Then there are reports of expeditions to the North-West; many most important details respecting the Indians from about 1788; documents relating to the construction of the canals by the Imperial Government; very complete reports of the proceedings in Canada of the Royal Engineers; details of the defensive posts and fortifications; much interesting information respecting the chief cities and new settlements, including those formed from the weaver population of Scotland, ruined by the introduction of the power loom, and who, it may be noted, made most successful settlers.

"The division with the title 'Settlers' includes also a collection of the original correspondence with the exiled French Royalists who, after the massacre of Quiberon and the suppression of the struggle in La Vendée and Brittany, entered into negotiations with the British Government for a grant of land in Upper Canada. They began an establishment about thirty miles north of Toronto, but the situation was ill-chosen and the settlers unsuited for the rough work of clearing, so that the scheme collapsed, and the leader, the Count de Puisaye, died in poverty in London. In addition to the original documents relating to this last subject, I had copies made in London of other correspondence, which makes the information on this attempt at settlement fairly complete. It may be said that almost everything relating to local subjects coming within the jurisdiction of the Military Commanders is to be found here, besides much that is of a civil character. There is, however, little of political history. That information has to be sought for elsewhere, and the gap in that respect is being rapidly filled up.

"This collection being complete, I have distinguished it as series 'C'. To facilitate research, I had an index placed in each volume. At first I thought of limiting the index to the names of the writers and recipients of letters, to memorialists and subjects, but finally resolved to grapple with the task of indexing every name of every person and place mentioned, together with such subjects as could be briefly stated. To do more was hopeless. By this time the copies of the Haldimand and Bouquet Collections were beginning to arrive. These I had arranged to have bound in London, after revision, so that they could be placed on shelves on arrival. As a relaxation from the drudgery of indexing, I took to making abstracts of these, specimens of which are to be found in the annual reports on Canadian Archives since (and including) 1884. In making these abstracts I had a double end in view: one, to make the documents readily accessible; the other, to make a thorough revision of the copies, so as to make certain they were exact transcripts. Lists were made of all doubtful points, which I transmitted to the revisors in London for further examination. By this process, I believe as exact copies have been secured as it is possible to obtain in transcribed documents. It is scarcely necessary to say, that I have insisted on the copies containing every peculiarity of spelling, every error, and that no variation in these or in any other respect is allowed.