

teristic of the respective writers, or, if not so to be described, characteristic of the times, or indicative of the manners of the day. Here and there my specimen may form a text for a very brief dissertation on some point which it may suggest. Chronological succession or contemporaneousness will, as I have already hinted, be the chief principle of connection between the several parts of each of my papers.

I.—SOME CANADIAN AUTOGRAPHS AND NORTH AMERICAN GENERALLY.

I proceed, then first, with my Canadian autographs. I have aimed at a catena of manuscript memorials of governors and others who have been of note among us; but I have been hitherto only partially successful in securing specimens. The difficulty of recovering manuscript relics of sixty or seventy years ago is not slight. Whenever the only quotations I have it in my power to give are somewhat colourless, I trust to Canadian local feeling to clothe seemingly trivial words with the needful modicum of interest.

To make a beginning, I produce an autograph letter of the French Duke de la Rochefoucauld-Liancourt. This nobleman visited Canada in 1795. He remained for some time at Newark or Niagara, and then passed down the lake to Kingston. In the account of his travels which he afterwards published, he gave an elaborate description of Upper and Lower Canada, and commented in statesmanlike style on the policy of the Governor-General of the day, Lord Dorchester, and on that of the Lieutenant-Governor of the young western province, General Simcoe. The letter which I have expressly relates to this his volume of Travels, which I need scarcely say has now become a classic to the student of Canadian history. Soon after its publication on the continent of Europe, it was translated into English and published in London. It appears that the first sheet of the English production, containing the Translator's Preface, had been sent over to the duke, and he was shocked at some language which the translator had therein employed in regard to himself. He found himself openly charged with a breach of faith in proclaiming to the world certain matters that had been made known to him in the confidence of private conversation. The letter which ensues is the one which I have in my collection. It is in French, and is addressed to Mr. Neuman, the English translator. The duke says: "*Monsieur,—Une petite partie de la traduction que vous publiez de mon Voyage*