

search which has been granted by France and other maritime powers, will, it may be hoped, soon put a different face on the business. It may be true that the new-born zeal of Bismarck and Germany in the task imposed "alike by the sacred principles of religion and humanity," has been wonderfully quickened by the misfortunes which have overtaken the German East African Company. It may also be true, as Lord Salisbury has intimated, that the uprising of the native tribes which has caused these misfortunes, is not due wholly to the hostility of the Arab slave dealers. It is, indeed, highly probable that that hostility would have been impotent for lack of material to operate on, but for the alarm and indignation aroused in the breasts of the native tribes by the high-handedness of the officials of the German Company, and their failure to have sufficient regard to the customs and religious susceptibilities of the natives. Be that as it may, the event has brought about a concert of action which would probably have been otherwise unattainable, and which can scarcely fail to curtail very sensibly the horrors of the nefarious traffic in human flesh. It is now announced that Portugal is to take part in the work. If her influence with her colonists on the coast can but avail to secure a relaxation of their strictness in prohibiting the taking of field guns and other munitions of war into the interior, and if Cardinal Lavigerie succeeds in his plans for taking a force of European volunteers into the country, and establishing centres of defence amongst the wretched natives, the end of the horrible and sickening business of slave-catching cannot be far off.

#### KINGSFORD'S HISTORY OF CANADA.\*

WE receive this second volume of Mr. Kingsford's history with much pleasure on several grounds. In the first place, it appears at a reasonable interval after the publication of the first. It is a great mistake for historians to protract their labours, after the manner of Macaulay, in the vain hope of making their work perfect. The only result is a magnificent fragment which may survive as a specimen of literature, but which ceases to be regarded as a history. We sincerely trust that Mr. Kingsford may produce his subsequent volumes with the same promptitude, and that he may be spared to bring it to a completion.

There are no indications of haste, however, in the volume before us. We can honestly repeat the commendation bestowed upon the first in regard to the author's thorough acquaintance with the sources from which such a history must be drawn. There is every evidence of painstaking and thoroughly impartial labour. Whether the author is giving us the final history of this period or not, he is providing us with invaluable materials, and his own book can never be forgotten or ignored. When to these general commendations we add our testimony to the greatly improved style of the composition, it will be seen that we consider the present volume as one of great value. Whether the writer has warmed to his work, or whether a candid study of his first instalment made him aware of the possibility of improving its form—however it may be accounted for, the present volume is certainly much easier and pleasanter reading than its predecessor.

We think it would have been well to give headings to the various chapters, in addition to the very full analysis which is furnished at the beginning of the volume, and which might have been reproduced at the head of each chapter, if not in the margin. Book iv. treats of the period from the closing years of De Frontenac's first administration to his return to Canada (1679-1689). The recall of De Frontenac to France was occasioned by misunderstandings between him and the Intendant, Duchesneau; and in this incident we have one illustration out of many of the gross mismanagement of these American colonies by the home Governments, whether English or French. How little either country appreciated the importance or the future greatness of these possessions may be inferred that Duchesneau, in his memoir to the French Government, recommends the purchase of Manhattan and Orange (New York and Albany) from the Duke of York, with the country belonging to him, stating that the English possess the most fertile country in America. And then, as Mr. Kingsford remarks, comes the significant paragraph: "Should the King adopt the resolution to arrange with the Duke of York for his possessions in this quarter, in which case Boston could not resist, the only thing to fear is that this country might go to ruin, the French being naturally inconstant and fond of novelty." Perhaps we may find in such statements some explanation of the often-noted fact, in our own time, that many Canadians (who have not all the proverbial French fickleness) are crossing the border.

When Duchesneau was recalled he was succeeded in Canada by M. de la Barre; and "there are few characters in Canadian history on whom censure is so unsparingly heaped." And apparently, from the French point of view, with perfect justice, since he made peace, without good reason, with the hostile Indian tribes on terms disgraceful to France, being an "abandonment of every advantage possessed by the French." He was recalled, and in retiring behaved with a characteristic want of dignity. It is in a later portion of the volume that we get some further insight into his incapacity.

There and then, amidst the incompetency and want of principle that come out in the conduct of the leading men of both nations, we come

across bright examples of loyalty, good sense, and courage. Among the men of this sort Dougan, the Governor of New England, an Irishman and a Roman Catholic, should be remembered. He was naturally well inclined to the French Government by nationality, by religion, and by favours previously received from the French King. When the new Canadian Governor, Denonville, announced his arrival to him, Dougan answered with courtesy, referring to the fact that he had eaten the bread of the King of France, and speaking of his desire for a good understanding. When, however, the French Governor tried to take advantage of these relations to the endangering of English interests, he found that Dougan was in no way inclined to sacrifice his master's rights. When Denonville taunted him "with furnishing rum to the Indians, Dougan retorted that it did as little hurt as Denonville's brandy, and, in the opinion of Christians, was much more wholesome."

On another occasion, we find him watchful against French aggression, regarding an attack of the French on the Seneca tribe as a blow directed against his Government, and when the French Governor refused to comply with his terms he plainly indicated that, unless the home Government restrained him, he would take the settlement of the question into his own hands. "If they," he said, "will suffer us to do ourselves justice on you for the injuries and spoils you have committed on us. . . . I will be as soon at Quebec as you shall be at Albany." Here is a man who does not deserve to be forgotten.

One of the most interesting episodes in the present volume is the story of De La Salle, and his attempt to ascend the Mississippi from the Gulf of Mexico. The first volume of Mr. Kingsford's work ended with an account of the wonderful exploration of the great river down to its mouth, an expedition which was the beginning of the French colonies in the Southern States. The author truly remarks on the difficulty of giving an account of De La Salle's designs, when, after his return to France, he returned with the intention of effecting a settlement at the mouth of the Mississippi; but in spite of this, the story which he tells is one of the most interesting parts of his book, and one which remains the most clearly and distinctly in the memory. It is quite true that De La Salle was deficient in the qualities of a statesman, and his plans seem to have been formed in the vaguest possible manner, but he was a man of great and noble qualities, and there is reason to think that his expedition needed not have ended in failure and in his own death, if only he had been seconded and supported. The story is too long to give even an outline here; but we are assured that many readers who will not care for the somewhat weary and sickening details of conflicts between New England and French Canada, with episodes of Indian massacres, will read with interest the story of De La Salle's last expedition which is told in the last two chapters of the fourth book.

By the way, we may mention, with entire approval, the method here employed of telling a continuous story, although it necessitates going back to a period previous to the point at which the general narrative has arrived. A history ought not, indeed, to consist of a series of more or less connected essays; but neither, on the other hand, should it be a mere series of annals, a catalogue of events: there should be a marshalling of facts around a policy or a current of progress—a threading of the beads upon some string that will introduce something like continuity or unity into the story. This method, which is taken with the expedition of De La Salle, is also followed in telling the story of Acadia; and, in spite of all the indifference of the Home Governments and the blundering of those in power on this side, the story makes a very interesting one.

Incidentally, in various places, we obtain some strange glimpses into the life and manners of the colonists at the end of the seventeenth century. One of the most remarkable is the view given of "that extraordinary infatuation known in history as the 'Salem Witches.' The mania commenced in February, 1692, when a daughter and a niece of Paris, the minister at Salem, complained of suffering torture. These young girls gave circumstantial accounts of the pains they suffered from the presence of persons known to be in other places. The influence was set down to the powers obtained from the Evil One by men and women who had sold themselves to him, soul and body, bound by the compact to torture their fellows. . . . When the question of this influence was first agitated in New England, so strong a belief in its possibility was expressed by the mass of men that none dared deny it without the risk of being included among the guilty. The question of its existence was submitted to a company of ministers, and they hesitated to affirm that a curse so ridiculous was impossible." [Is not Mr. Kingsford going a little too far here? How in the world could the ministers declare the thing to be impossible? Can the writer prove its impossibility? How should the ministers declare it to be absurd, when they read of witches in the Bible? The actual dealing with the accused is quite another thing, and deserves the comments passed upon it.]

"A terrorism arose to crush all opposition. Accusations were made in all directions. Parents incriminated their children, children their parents; a wife was found to charge her husband with witchcraft, a husband the wife. By the month of May more than a hundred women of Salem, Bernley, and other places, many of them of reputable character and of good family and circumstances, had been placed in jail. On the 1st of June a woman was tried, and in ten days was executed. On the 30th of June five women were brought to trial; one was found not guilty. The court expressed so much dissatisfaction with the verdict that the jury returned to amend it, and to find the poor creature guilty. . . . They were executed. . . . Nineteen persons, all protesting their innocence, were ignominiously hanged."

We find several passages marked for extract or notice; but we must pass briefly over them. Here are some lines worth quoting at the end of

\* "The History of Canada." By William Kingsford. Vol. ii. 1679-1722. Toronto: Rowsell and Hutchison. 1888.