

in a village of the western Dahcotah, on the high plains between Mt. Laramie and the range of Medicine Bow." "The Oregon Trail" is an account of this experience, during which he underwent hardships that seriously impaired his health for the rest of his life.

Parkman was about fifty years in writing the great series of histories to which he gave the name "France and England in North America," and, as has been aptly said, this period is best described by a phrase which he used as the name of one of his books: "a half-century of conflict." He did not enjoy a well day during that time. John Fiske, the historian, says of him: "The heroism shown year after year in contending with physical ailments was the index of a character fit to be mated, for its pertinacious courage, with the heroes that live in his shining pages." An account of one difficulty under which he labored is told by himself in the introduction to the "Conspiracy of Pontiac." "For about three years," he says, "the light of day was insupportable, and every attempt at reading or writing completely debarred. Under these circumstances, the task