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CANADIAN HISTORIC NAMES.

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THE reader of the historical annals of Canada, cannot fail to derive much profit from a careful study of the origin and meaning of the old names which still cling to so many parts of the Dominion. An investigation of this character will necessarily take us back to the ancient times of these Colonies, and recall the pioneers and adventurers who made the first settlements on the shores of the Atlantic, or by the side of the St. Lawrence and its tributary waters. But only those who have a deep interest in the records of our history, can fully appreciate the feelings which animate the student as he peers into the vista of the past. We may compare him to one who, after an absence of very many years, revisits his birthplace, and finds that it has been touched in the interval by the wand of that magician, Progress, whose power never ceases on this American continent. As he passes up and down the busy streets, he will recall the old times when the now prosperous city was but a quiet village. Every street will have for him its associa-

tions; and the old fashioned buildings, though mouldy and covered with moss, will have in his eyes a greater charm than the spacious warehouses and mansions that cover what were pastures in the days of his boyhood. So the historical student when he takes up the list of Canadian names, is far from seeing in it a mere catalogue of unmeaning words; for he goes back in memory to the time they were first given. He can see clumsy craft, no larger than the smallest coasters of our Atlantic shores, buffeting with the waves of unknown seas; Indians and Frenchmen fraternizing on the banks of the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa; *voyageurs* and *coureurs de bois* paddling on the rivers, or struggling through the forests of an illimitable wilderness; French priests preaching the lessons of their faith to ignorant savages, and suffering many tortures and privations for religion's sake; noblemen and gentlemen with historic names, battling against a dauntless Indian foe, carrying the flag of France into the distant regions of the West, and braving