

that there is nothing they can do in original historical investigation, especially if they are shut off from books and lack the means to buy them. There could be no greater mistake. The most marked movement in historical, as well as scientific, investigation to-day, is the tendency to go always to the original sources of information and to examine those sources with the greatest fulness and keenness. In local history, actual facts, however trivial, gathered by observers on the spot, are greatly desired by writers of provincial and county histories; and all such facts about the history of special places, when gathered carefully and critically, are sure of a much wider and more appreciative audience than one at first has any idea of. Sooner or later such facts find their proper permanent places in the history of the country, and their gatherer has the satisfaction of knowing that he has made some permanent, even if small, contribution to knowledge, and has done something to advance scholarship, patriotism and education. The present writer has been greatly impressed by the value of such local information as can be gathered by any local student, no matter how isolated and limited in facilities, through studies he has carried on which necessitated the gathering of a large number of facts directly from special localities. He has been greatly surprised by the readiness and accuracy with which such facts are gathered by local students when once their attention is directed to the subject, and he has often thought, "how much better it would be if such students would systematically gather and place on record these facts for themselves." The present notes are written to help the earnest local student to know what is important to gather in local history, and how it can best be made permanent and accessible.

Of course some localities are vastly more interesting historically than others; but there is hardly a place in Canada, hardly a county or a parish, in which there is not a great deal of information to be gathered, which, even though it may be too familiar to be of interest to residents to-day, will at least interest their successors in the future. The main need is for critical, careful, truthful gathering and recording of facts. The investigator should not take as correct everything he hears, but should seek all evidence and weigh it. He should not only crave facts, but should crave conviction as to their truth. And when he places his results upon record, he should be careful to express them in their proper logical degrees of truth, distinguishing those things which are proven from those which are only probable, and these from those that are merely possible. He should seek always confirmation from documents; or, to be more exact, his study should be as largely as possible documentary, and as little as possible traditional.

The first requisite for any one undertaking such studies is to inform himself well upon what is already known and published about the history of his particular region. He could carefully read, therefore, the best available his-