

be found numerous maps and plans relative to events, regions explored, and structures, under the old French *régime*. In the splendid library of the Dominion, at Ottawa, is the largest collection, with respect to historical purposes, including many of the oldest maps of British North America, from the southern boundary of Nova Scotia and the St. Lawrence to the Arctic circle. An inspection of the catalogue of the Parliamentary Library would shew how many valuable illustrations of the history and progress of this country, in the shape of maps and charts, might there be found. All who have the pleasure of knowing the enlightened and accurate librarian, Mr. Todd, are aware of his ability to appreciate the utility of such records. But who can wonder that, in the absence of space and opportunities of having them arranged and exhibited, so as to be conveniently accessible to the public, and amidst overwhelming labours entailed by other prescribed duties, there should be wanting, even in the catalogue, the appearance of chronological order? Besides, the collection there deposited is very incomplete, indeed, as respects North American and Canadian chorography and topography. There are, I believe, no maps or charts in the recently-commenced libraries of the Local Governments; and it is not within my knowledge, though I have often made enquiries concerning this matter, that any private individuals have devoted themselves to the making of such collections. When we consider the relations of chorography and topography to history; the neglect which prevailed during the whole of the last century to regard maps, especially old ones, as essential historical records, and, therefore, to preserve or recover them; the various causes of loss of old maps; the nature of the materials—wax, brass, copper, silver, paper—to which the precious lines of maps have been committed, and the carelessness and rapacity of conquerors, whenever these documents have fallen into their hands; the necessary wearing-out of those inserted in books for their illustration; the jealousy of ancient and modern maritime nations, which induced them to conceal from their rivals in commerce all knowledge of their treasures of this class; the general disposition to discard, as no longer useful, old maps of regions incorrectly or imperfectly delineated, and to supersede them by others of more recent origin; and that the work of exploring, surveying and map-making, is susceptible of an endless approximation to truth and perfection,—we can be at no loss to account for the absence of a complete collection, not only in Canada, but in any other country. The considerations associated with these points are certainly worthy of serious attention; and if time permitted, it would be easy to shew that they are now generally held to be so in England, France, Germany, and the United States.

Geographers, travellers, and historians have commonly inscribed in their maps many things not spoken of in their writings, finding it a less laborious and a quicker method of reaching the understanding to speak to the eye than to the ear. Their maps often serve us in place of books. Older maps are required for testing and verifying the information conveyed by new ones. Boundary questions, so prolific a source of warfare and misery in the American history, and various political and social considerations, have been, as everybody knows, intimately and vitally connected with, and dependent upon, the matters of which we now speak. Need we, in this connection, refer to the early quarrels between the Spaniards and Portuguese with respect to the division between them of the tropical regions of North and South America?—to the innumerable collisions between the French and English as to their limits further north?—to the disputes between England, France, and Spain, concern-

ing Florida, Nova Scotia, and the regions beyond the Alleghany mountains? to the uncertain state in which boundary questions were left concerning Canada and the United States, or, rather, inherited by these from the forefathers of the people of both? It has been alleged that during the 17th and 18th centuries no war occurred in Europe which was not in some degree connected with such questions, respecting boundaries in the western hemisphere, and no treaty of peace concluded without some articles or stipulations concerning them. On such occasions American maps were in general request; and it is said that when the treaty of Aix la Chapelle was negotiated by French and English commissioners, the single question of the limits of Nova Scotia occasioned the recourse to at least fifty American maps, old and new. Maps have played an equally conspicuous part in later important transactions of an international character. Witness the settlement of the N. E. boundary dispute, when Lord Ashburton and the British negotiators are alleged to have acceded to an agreement by which we Canadians and our posterity now and forever are held bound to a result which debars us from the use of a much better approach to the ocean than our own territory can afford, but which need not have been accepted if existing authentic maps had then been accessible or known to both parties. Witness, also, the more recent and menacing controversies respecting boundaries in the north and west, down to the conclusion of the late Washington Treaty, by which, happily, though, perhaps, at some unnecessary sacrifice of interests appertaining to both sides, all such traditional and irritating sources of trouble appear to be at length removed.

Much more might be advanced than has been alluded to in this imperfect sketch, to shew the great value and importance of map making, both in international and social points of view, and to shew that those who have devoted themselves to their execution, or to the subsidiary arts and sciences, are worthy of high estimation amongst us.

In the earlier days of Canada, after the Province had come under British rule, and thence down to the present day, the governing authorities seem never to have lost sight of the importance of causing the chorography to be accurately delineated. General Murray, the first resident British governor, commissioned Captain (afterwards Colonel) Montresor, of the Royal Engineers, to survey and map the River St. Lawrence, from Montreal down to the Island of St. Barnaby, opposite Rimouski. His map, which is extant, was, I believe, the very first executed after the capture of Montreal in 1760. For a long time, while the military and civil governments were necessarily associated, the exploration of the course of the St. Lawrence extending upwards, to, and beyond Lake Ontario, and that of the regions north and south of the river, was continued under Sir Samuel Holland and succeeding surveyors-general. Lord Dorchester, Haldimand, Prescott, Milnes, and their successors in the administration of the Province, down to recent times, when all that kind of work has been given in charge of one of the Civil Departments, appear to have attached the greatest consequence to the perfecting of those surveys and to the multiplication of correct maps. Not only military considerations, but also those relating to settlement and revenue, stimulated the authorities to continue the work under the conduct of officers and men the best qualified by professional experience to carry it on. Hence we have—deposited, however, in different quarters—numerous maps and charts of Canada, shewing what the country was and how it grew in settlement and population, and what its territorial, electoral, and other divisions have been from time to time, down to the present day.