

ADMINISTRATION—COSTS—ASCERTAINING CLASS—TRUSTEE RELIEF ACT.

In re Gibbons' Will, 36 Chy. D. 486, it was held by Chitty, J., that executors, by payment into court under the Trustee Relief Act of a sum to answer a legacy to a class, cannot thereby relieve the general residue from bearing the costs of an inquiry to ascertain who are the persons entitled under the bequest.

Reviews and Notices of Books.

The History of Canada. By WILLIAM KINGSFORD. Toronto: Rowsell & Hutchinson. 1887.

It is the natural and laudable desire of every man to know what he can of the history of the land he lives in, and in the volume mentioned in the heading to this article, Mr. Kingsford undertakes to tell us the story of Canada under French rule, from its earliest date to 1682. We understand that his intention is to continue the work to the Union of Upper and Lower Canada in 1841, so as to comprise the history of our country under French rule, until the capitulation of the Marquis de Vaudreuil in 1760, and its cession to Great Britain by the Treaty of Paris in 1763; and thereafter under the Government of Great Britain and of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

Mr. Kingsford's qualifications for the work he has undertaken are the intense interest he takes in his subject, indefatigable industry, a perfect knowledge of the languages in which the documents from which his information is derived are written, and a familiarity with the archives of Canada, now under the charge of Mr. Brymner, to whose ability and courtesy Mr. Kingsford bears ample and deserved testimony in his work on the archæology of Canada,—and above all, a reputation and character which justify our full faith in the assurance he gives in his opening chapter: "That he will make every effort to be fair and honest," and in his confident hope "that those with whom he may have the misfortune to differ, will recognize that he has consulted original authorities, and that whatever opinions he expresses are not hastily or groundlessly formed; but that, on the contrary, he has warrant for the belief that they are fully sustained by evidence." With this assurance he enters upon the story of the occupation and colonization of Canada, and shows us that in Canada, as in the English colonies in North America, the work was commenced, not by the Government, but by private enterprise moved by the spirit of adventure and the hope of gain, aided after a while in Canada by the desire to extend the influence of the Church, and for the conversion of savage nations to Christianity; receiving later some official assistance by the incorporation of a company with means and influence and special powers of settlement and organization; and lastly, by the direct intervention of the Sovereign, and the assumption of the government of the country by France as a Royal possession. He then narrates in ordered sequence the three voyages of Cartier to the St. Lawrence, and his ascent of that river to Montreal, his attempt at settlement, and the sufferings he and his crew endured from the Canadian