

that Parkman had reduced the affair to the smallest possible proportions; but Kingsford appeared with his history of Canada and so hacked away the slight foundation left by Parkman as to make the poet's work seem as insubstantial as the "baseless fabric of a vision," and his "pictures of the people, and of the priests as well," to borrow the phraseology of an Ontario school text book, as "utterly fictitious." And then what sounded like the last word—the final judgment—came, with much appropriateness, from Mr. Goldwin Smith, who, in his "Canada and the School Question," imperiously dismissed the matter by declaring that "Lieutenant Governor Adams Archibald, Mr. Parkman and Dr. Kingsford have completely disposed of this fiction." Doubtless we would next be gravely informed by some editor of Longfellow that "Evangeline" was based on a Nova Scotia nursery fable, had not Mr. Richard by his exhaustive researches, his careful collating and lucid interpretation of official documents, shed so clear a light upon the history of the deportation as makes the poet's pictures fall far short of the sad reality.

The volume of selections came to be regarded as the great repository of the facts of the case. Its official status made it extremely difficult for an author to set aside its authority; and the use made of it by Parkman, who devoted a lifetime to the study of American history, gave the work a sanction that made its testimony seem unimpeachable. But Mr. Richard has succeeded in making it abundantly evident that the volume was compiled rather with a view to the defence of the administrators of the colony than in the interest of truth, and that the compiler's mutilation

of official documents was further mutilated by Parkman in his overweening desire as a New Englander to do what he was pleased to consider justice to those whom he regarded as his own. Mr. Philip H. Smith, in his "Acadia—A Lost Chapter of American History," essayed to give a true and connected account of the deportation; he made excellent use of the material he had, but it was insufficient. Mr. Richard obtained access to the documents that were wanting, and with them he has filled in the gaps. The title of his two volumes, "Acadia:—Missing Links in a Lost Chapter," is apt and refreshingly modest, but, nevertheless, very misleading, for Mr. Richard gives us a consecutive narrative into which he has so skilfully worked, without any particle of fiction, the documents bearing on the subject, as to make most instructive and interesting reading out of the dry bones of public records. He is quite within the mark when he states in his introductory pages that he undertook a work that had never been done before; and the manner in which he has accomplished it makes one rejoice that he turned from the making of laws to the writing of history.

The early history of the French settlement in Acadia is as stormy as interesting, and the Bay of Fundy, as our author remarks, evokes almost as many memories as the Ægean Sea. England and France might be at peace; but, in spite of international "ententes cordiales," Boston and Acadia waged war at pleasure. The French settlement was a menace—and frequently an active one—to the commerce of New England; and Acadia, separated from Canada by immense stretches of impenetrable forest and neglected by France, was