

weather sets in he will remove to the balmy place on the coast. Mr. Bright's obedience to medical advice contrasts very greatly with the venturesomeness of Mr. Gladstone. People who met him driving during the Easter vacation say with astonishment that he insisted upon an open carriage, and defied the blast without one extra wrap. Such presumption is justified if it is successful. It hardens him, and makes him less susceptible to cold; but one does not like to see him running so great a risk."

A LADY contributor to an English journal writes:—"I was talking the other day with a lady who is a well-known lecturer on cookery, and she strongly advocated the use of cotton seed oil for frying purposes. She told me that it was commonly used in vegetarian cookery, and that it is cheap, sweet, and far better than inferior dripping, lard, or any animal oil but butter, which, if good, is costly. She says it requires rather a higher temperature to boil than other fat, and should be used very hot, when it fries most excellently and produces a beautiful, delicate, brown colour on fish, potatoes, rissoles, or whatever may be fried in it. The price varies from 2s. to 3s. 6d. a gallon, which when compared with Lucca or olive oil, lard, or butter, is very cheap. It was used all last year at the Fisheries in preparing the sixpenny fish luncheons which were so popular."

MATERIALS FOR HISTORY.

THE student of early Canadian history must not place too great dependence on the printed books of one and two centuries ago. Both sides are well represented in the numerous printed volumes; and the bitter antagonisms, rival sentiments, and opposing narratives which they contain shed light on all transactions which occupied the minds of the founders of a rugged and jealous nationality. But the careful student, fresh from the perusal of such works as the "Premier Etablissement de la Foy dans la Nouvelle France," of Père Le Clerq, (which, by the way, was written under the eye of the great Governor, Count Frontenac,) and the copious chapters of Hennepin, La Hontan, Tonti, Marquette and others, will do well to verify what he finds there inscribed by consulting the official and other contemporary documents. These latter, thanks to the spirit of enlightenment which has within a few years pervaded governments and keepers of archives, are now available to writers and enquirers. In 1835 the French Government refused to allow copies to be made of the valuable and priceless annals and data under their care. In 1838, access to these archives was again denied. But in 1842 the persistence of an American scholar, General Cass, at the time United States Minister to France, was rewarded, and he secured, in behalf of the State of Michigan, some forty cartons for publication. Ten years later (1852) the efforts made by an agent of the Quebec Literary and Historical Society, in 1835, bore good fruit, and thirty-six folios of copies were obtained by the Parliament of Quebec. Since that date no doors have been closed against the seeker after historical truths, and almost every year fresh discoveries of documents have been made, and placed at the disposal of students. One of the most valuable of the late collections of historical papers given to the public is the exhaustive Margry set. It comprises five large volumes. The collection has been printed in a limited edition of a few hundred copies, and bears the title "Découvertes et Etablissements des Français dans l'Ouest et dans le Sud de l'Amerique Septentrionale (1614-1754), Memoires et Documents originaux." Three volumes deal with the career of La Salle, and the others relate to other explorers. They are beautifully printed, and edited with intelligence and circumspection.

Within the last thirty or forty years the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec has published a good many useful papers and rare manuscripts relating to the early history of the country. Many of these are now out of print, but few remain in pamphlet form, and are available for consultation. Besides the printed collections the Society has a goodly number of volumes of unprinted and unedited works, notably the interesting series of papers comprised in the diary of James Thompson, a veteran who fought under Wolfe, and died in Quebec at the age of ninety-eight. These journals, of course, treat of Quebec under English rule, but the Society possesses in its strong boxes several other documents which are of interest to those who wish to trace Canadian history from the beginning.

Government in Quebec province, whatever its shortcomings may have been in an economical or moral sense, has never been unmindful of the archives of the community. These have always been open to inspection. The collection in the Registrar's office is very complete and rich, and a couple of years ago the series was sensibly augmented by the copies brought from Boston by M. Evanturel. This collection was made a few years

since by an agent of Massachusetts at Paris. The papers relate chiefly to Acadian matters, but they also contain a good deal about Quebec. The extensive series known as the "Correspondance Officielle" is the most exhaustive of all. Two complete sets exist in Canada, in French and in manuscript form. One is in the library of Parliament at Ottawa, and the other may be seen at the Archives Department in Quebec. The original register and proceedings of Council, in several volumes, remain in very fair condition in the Registrar's office, Quebec. The first, a folio bound in calf and indexed, bears two titles, the first of which is, "Registre des Insinuations du Conseil de 1663 à 1682;" ninety-six pages. It begins with the King's edict, creating the Superior Council, dated April 1st, 1683, and ends with the "Procès Verbal" of the Superior Council concerning the "Redaction of the Code Civil," or ordinance of Louis, April 14, 1667. The second title is, "Jugements et Délibérations du Conseil Souverain de la Nouvelle France, 1663 à 1676," two hundred and eighty-one pages. It begins with an *arrêt* of the Superior Council ordering the registration of the King's edict of April 1st, 1663, creating the Superior Council for New France, to be held at Quebec; and ends with an interlocutory judgment, dated December, 19, 1676, upon a petition of François Noir Roland, complaining of his curate for refusing him absolution. This book, or register, is authenticated by the certificate of the Governor, Comte de Frontenac, on the first page as follows:

"Le Présent Régistre du Conseil Souverain Contenant trois cens soixante et seize feuillets a été ce jour paraphé *ne varietur* par premier et dernier, par nous Louis de Buade de Frontenac, Chevallier Comte de Pallau, Conseiller du Roy, en ses Conseils, Gouverneur et Intendant Général pour sa Majesté, en la Nouvelle France, Québec le Quinzième Janvier Mille six cents soixante et quinze. FRONTENAC."

The entries in general throughout this end of the book are authenticated by the Governor, Bishop, Intendant, Councillors, or Clerk of the Council; and the last, or two hundred and eighty-first leaf, is signed by Duchesneau, Intendant, and by Dupont, member of the Council. Its general contents consist of a variety of orders, regulations, ordinances, judgments, civil and criminal, of the Superior Council, licitation, and adjudications of Crown estates, representations to the King and his ministers upon various subjects. There are four following volumes of this register in the archives at Quebec bearing the dates 1677 to 1680, 1681 to 1687, and 1688 to 1693, respectively.

The majority of the historical papers in the Registrar's office are in manuscript, but before many years elapse it is to be hoped that all this valuable material will be accessible in printed copies. Thirty years ago the Parliament of Canada authorized a beginning to be made in that direction, and the publication of the "Edits and Ordonnances" was the result. In 1858, mainly through the instrumentality of the Rev. Abbé Bois, Curé of Maskinongé, the famous "Relations des Jesuites" were undertaken. They fill three very large volumes, and throw a great amount of light on the history of French and ecclesiastical occupation from 1611 to 1672, inclusive. In this laudable work Messrs. Francis Parkman, G. B. Faribault, Henry de Courcy, Jean-Marie Shea, and reverend Messrs. Plante, Ferland and Laverdière lent their valuable aid. The "Relations" was the last work of the kind published under public auspices before Confederation. Since 1867 the various Quebec administrations confined their labours in connection with the archives to the transcription of important documents whenever and wherever they could be found. A year ago the new Provincial Secretary, M. Jean Blanchet, decided to resume the publication of a limited edition of the literary and historical treasures which enrich his department. One volume of the collection, containing papers from 1492 to 1712, and occupying some six hundred and forty ample pages, has just been issued. Volume second is well under way and will be ready shortly. There is ample material left for upwards of twelve volumes, and we are promised these in time. These memoirs, letters, etc., are deeply interesting, and exhibit in a strong light the heroic struggles of the infant colony, and the trials and dangers to which the first settlers were subjected. They tell, too, the story of daring achievement by land and water against savage tribes, and reveal in touching terms the zeal, fortitude and devotion which the Jesuit missionaries never failed to show in the prosecution of their noble work of Christianity and colonization. In these pages we are brought face to face with the actors who played so conspicuous a part in those first trying days of a colony which a great King sought to erect into an empire which might rival in grandeur, as it surpassed in extent, the splendid Mother Country itself. Their motives and policy are laid bare, and the notable and stirring adventures through which they passed are described in simple but earnest language. The collection cannot fail to awaken renewed interest and pride in the early history of this country, and it is to be hoped that the Dominion authorities may, one of these days,