

work. These works (although there are many others I might name) cover the whole area of the continent west of Ontario—to the green slopes of the western ocean and the ice-bound margin of the sluggish polar sea.

A leading American author in one of his early books, writing at Niagara and standing on his own side of the river, says with compassionate sententiousness, "I look across the cataract to a country without a history." He was looking into the emptiness of his own mind; for, at that very time, his countryman, Parkman, had commenced the brilliant series of histories of this country which have won for him an enduring name. History! What country of the new world can unroll a record so varied and so vivid with notable deeds? From this very town went the men who opened out the continent to its inmost heart; before the English had crossed the Alleghany mountains. The streets of the old city have been thronged with painted warriors of the far unknown west, with boisterous voyageurs, with the white coated soldiers of the French king, and with the scarlet uniforms of the troops of the English crown. For Montreal, from the earliest times, has been the vortex of the conflicting currents of our national life. Few vestiges remain of the old town. The hand of the Philistine has been heavy. It is not so very long since I used to wander with Francis Parkman about the older streets; but landmark after landmark is gone or has suffered the last indignity of restoration. I remember taking Dean Stanley into the older part of the Seminary with a half apology for its being little more than 200 years old; while his own abbey reached back for nearly a thousand. "I have learned," he replied, "to look upon two hundred years in America as equivalent to one thousand in Europe." "They both reach back to the origins of things." He had just come from Chicago, and they had shown him thousands of hogs marching to their doom; but the gentle scholar would not stay to hear an exposition of the amazing economies in the disposal of those hogs, rendered possible by the advance of