

But few will read in heavy history
 The pros and cons, and with impartial minds
 Deliberately weigh the evidence.
 Then,— feeling that this essay has a place,
 Accept this feeble effort to explain
 What in a thousand manuscripts ⁴⁷ lies buried deep;
 While treasuries of dry historic facts,
 By skilful men impartially arrayed,
 Must still confound what they elucidate;
 For twice the human lens refracts the light,
 And they who read see more than they who write.

XXI.

One superficial glance shows but the crime;
 Another shows the former crime more grave;
 So be not hasty to condemn what seems
 Man's greatest "inhumanity to man." ⁴⁹
 Go, love and help the suffering and oppressed :
 The One who was The Truth did not condemn. ⁵⁰

XXII.

Find, if you will, among the histories,
 How Canada was fettered by her friends,
 And knew no freedom till the British came;
 Then find from every source how, step by step,
 Our native country rose to where she stands :
 The mistress of a million happy homes,
 With open arms for many millions more.
 Know that an empire soon shall rest upon
 What you and I are building now to-day,
 Then build your part for all eternity.

XXIII.

"Our Lady of the Snows," ⁵¹ and fruitful fields !

⁴⁷ In the Archives at Paris, Quebec, British Museum, etc. many of which are referred to by Parkman.

⁴⁸ The deceptive refraction of light is well known. Compare also Pope's couplet, "Tis with our judgments as our watches, none go just alike, yet each believes his own."

⁴⁹ Which, according to Burns, "makes countless thousands mourn."

⁵⁰ "Neither do I condemn thee." Christ to the sinful woman.

⁵¹ See epithet by Kipling, the Laureate of the Empire.