

time, to encounter, would have been very imperfectly represented, had not their relation with events at home been distinctly pointed out.

It would, doubtless, have been much easier for me to have refrained from describing this relation, and to have directed attention only to the local circumstances of each Settlement. But, the medley of incongruous details, thus presented to the view, would have been most perplexing; and the lessons arising from the contemplation of them, which it is the office of all history to teach, would have been thereby weakened or lost. In the attempt here made to recognize and enforce those lessons, I have found a new interest imparted to some of the most familiar incidents recorded in our national annals, and an explanation supplied of the state of affairs in our different Colonies, which it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to obtain by any other means. If the reader should feel the like interest, or be led to admit the like results, it will be my best recompense for the labour which has attended the enquiry.

The number of subjects which it has been necessary to comprise in the present Volume, has compelled me to advert to some of them very briefly, and to defer their fuller description to a later period. For the same reason, I have abstained altogether from introducing an account, which I had prepared, of the Roman Catholic Missions; and intend to give it hereafter.