

succeed them, may be happy if we can shew the courage, the endurance and generosity that are the attributes of the early adventurers and settlers of Acadie. Some periods of our history afford but little matter for connected narrative. At other times interesting transactions occur which do not form part of the regular sequence of events. In such cases I have preferred to place them in appendices to the chapters, instead of omitting them entirely, as I am anxious to preserve everything of genuine interest that I have found in my enquiries.

The leading idea with me has been to preserve from oblivion the past occurrences in this province. The frequent change of masters—the misfortunes that have often retarded its progress to civilization, and the varying effects that the contests of two great and noble nations have had on its destiny, will hereafter give scope for philosophical minds to review, and for eloquent writers to expatiate on.

The task of collecting and reducing into annals facts of interest, must naturally precede the more ambitious course of history, just as the labor of the pioneers of this continent, in clearing the forest, making roads and bridging streams, is an essential requisite to lead eventually to cities, villas, and high cultivation. If this work prove to be a useful preparation, as a scaffolding for the erection of more diversified and elegant structures, the labor I bestow on it will not have been useless.