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to its history would be the formation of an historical association in England and France, composed of those families which have been connected with its administration and of those which were associated with its naval or military history.

The proposal appeals to me forcibly, for some of the happiest years of my life were spent in Canada, and my husband, Lord Minto, while Governor-General, was deeply interested in the measures adopted by the Government for the preservation of its historic documents. Such an association would create a bond of sympathy between the two countries, and would prove of interest to many families who have possibly forgotten the part played by their predecessors in the progress and development of Canadian institutions. There are undoubtedly numerous memoirs and documents preserved in family archives, which would form the basis of an administrative history of the Dominion, and some of these might be published from time to time in suitable form. In any event, I think this association, through the family connexions of its members, would reveal sources of information which are at present unsuspected. Will your Royal Highness kindly give me your views on the subject? The Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, cordially endorses the proposal and Sir Campbell Stuart has expressed his willingness to act as temporary secretary for the association and to attend to the details of its formation.

I remain, Sir, your Royal Highness's obedient servant,
MARY MINTO.

Clarence House, St. James's, S.W., May 26.

Dear Lady Minto,—The proposal contained in your letter meets with my cordial approval. It is a movement entirely in sympathy with the views held by the late Lord

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Minto, and the views held by the succeeding Governor-Generals. Under the administration of Lord Grey, the first Archives building was erected, and afterwards, under my own, a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into the state of the Public Records, and the Board of Historic Publications for Canada was created.

The collection of historical material in Ottawa, which has been made possible by the generous support of successive Governments, has now assumed vast proportions, and the historians of the future will find material at hand for the political, economic, and social history of Canada, both under French *régime*, as well as under British rule.

An association such as proposed should be of real service to Canada. Through its members would be made known sources of history which are unsuspected, and it should prove a great pleasure to its members to learn, through this means, the story of Canada, with which their families have been identified.

I am glad to know that the Prime Minister of Canada approves it, and that Sir Campbell Stuart will act as temporary secretary.

Believe me, yours sincerely,

ARTHUR.

In accordance with the wish expressed by the Duke of Connaught and Lady Minto, I set to work immediately to organize a Canadian history society along the lines indicated in this correspondence. It has been for me a task of especial pleasure and I have received innumerable letters from many of

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W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
Memoranda & Notes

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