

In this aspect history becomes the great teacher of mankind : although, unfortunately, but few historians are sufficiently qualified to write it. They may be divided into two schools which seem to make it a point of opposing one another instead of affording mutual support. One relates, the other judges ; the former, seeing nothing but facts, becomes lost in a flood of events, while the latter, in its search after the laws and philosophy which grow out of these facts, dies of sterility in the midst of its own seriousness and grandeur. One contents itself with descriptions of national life and so becomes absorbed in a mass of disconnected chronicles ; the other analyses the organic part of the nation's existence in order to get at its true nature with its laws and the results which spring therefrom ; and so falls into mere abstraction. Hence the complete divorce of the two schools.

Garneau, "our national historian," understood the danger of following either method and excluding the other, and therefore attempted a combination of them in his great History of Canada.

He was born near Quebec in 1809, and was sent to school at an early age. At fourteen he became an office boy. At sixteen he began to study law, dividing his time between his duties and the study of literature and the English, Latin and Italian languages. At the age of twenty-one he was admitted to the practice of the notarial profession, and a year later left for England where he spent two years devoting himself to study, and profiting by intercourse with such men as the poet Campbell, Count Camperdown and MacGregor the historian. On his return to Canada he began to study with eagerness our annals, and commenced in 1845 the publication of his history of Canada. It was well received by all learned and competent men in Canada and in France. The *Nouvelle Revue Encyclopédique*, the *Revue des deux Mondes*, and the *Correspondant* devoted to it long articles filled with praises. Henri Martin himself, the author of the great History of France, gave him the following encomium : "We do not leave without emotion this History of Canada, which has come to us from another hemisphere like a living testimony of the sentiment and traditions preserved among the French of the New World, after a century of foreign domination."

The great majority of the Catholic clergy alone, while praising the high merit of his history, bitterly criticised certain portions of it, and compelled Garneau to withdraw it forthwith from circula-