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**SUMMARY.**—**CANADIAN HISTORY:** A hundred years ago, by H. G. M.—**LITERATURE:** Poetry: Gray's Elegy.—The use of catechisms, by Kelle.—**SCIENCE:** Convention of the American Scientific Association for 1859.—**EDUCATION:** School days of eminent men in Great-Britain, by J. F. Timbs. (continued from our last).—Suggestive hints towards improved secular instruction, by the Rev. R. Davies. 6th Normal History, 6th Arithmetic.—**OFFICIAL NOTICES:** Appointments.—Laval Normal School.—School Commissioners and Trustees.—Annexation to a School Municipality.—Donations to the library of the Department.—Situation as teacher wanted.—**EDITORIAL:** Necrology, Death of John Head, Esquire.—The English language in Lower Canada.—Ninth conference of the Association of Teachers in connection with the Jacques-Cartier Normal School.—The Deaf and Dumb Institute of Montreal.—**NOTICES OF BOOKS:** Garneau's History of Canada.—Memoirs of the Historical Society of Montreal.—Borthwick's Cyclopaedia.—Bell-Centennium.—**MONTHLY SUMMARY:** Educational intelligence.—**ADVERTISEMENTS.**

## CANADIAN HISTORY.

### A Hundred Years Ago.

There is a period in the life of man, during which his mind is replete with the thoughts of the past. It comes when age has whitened his locks and infirmities have bent his frame. Separated by a short space of time from the grave, waiting at every moment to receive him, and warned by his failing strength, that his days are few, he indulges in no hopes for the future; he lives with the past. How fondly does he not dwell, on the scenes of his youth and early boyhood, how often does he not recount the events of his infant years; ceasing to act he becomes the historian of his actions, and wishes to transmit to his remotest posterity the history of a peacefully passed or eventful career as the case may be, but always to him full of interest and forming an endless theme of discourse. Is there, in this point a resemblance between the nation and the individual? does the former like the latter dwell on its days of childhood when the hand of decay has withered its features, and declining vigor menaces it with dissolution? Is it that the historian enters the scene to narrate the past glories of his country, dwell with ecstasy on its greatness, speak with admiration of its institutions and then close the book of history to all future heroic deeds? Like the aged do we dwell with fondness on the reminiscences of the past as on the beauties of a setting sun which is never more to shed its beams? Or rather, are we not contemplating our history for the purpose of exciting ourselves to a greater love for a country which can count many departed heroes, show her battlefields, speak of the storms she has withstood, the tempests which have passed unheeded by, never swerving her from her course; of which the historian can narrate in glowing terms her happy issue from a thousand difficulties, through a sea of troublous waters, to her present smiling haven of peace? When we turn over her annals is it not to see whether in these our forefathers' testament, there be not some instructions to follow, some sage councils to fulfill; and when in a spirit of filial piety we read with avidity their generous sacrifices for the country for which they have shed their blood, are we not incited to watch and keep strict vigil over this, our adopted fatherland, an

inheritance purchased at the cost of many lives, preserved by the devotedness of the brave and the patriotic, and to be transmitted intact to our heirs? Yes, with such and no other object in view have the Canadians, this year, celebrated the memory of their illustrious dead. If, a few months back, a thousand voices sung the hymn of thanksgiving for the happy development of Lower Canada's great educational institution and spoke in words of praise of the devoted founder, Bishop Laval; if the press, with many voices, recorded that Canada celebrated the second centenary of the landing, on its shores, of the first Bishop of New France; if a few days ago, on the 13th and 14th September, the great events of 1759 were dwelt upon, and a thought given to the generals who had played so important a part in Canada's destinies; if, with searching eyes, we have perused with interest and fixed attention the silent testimonials of the past, it was with the feelings of the son of a soldier, desirous of knowing all the brave deeds of his father. It was with no melancholy foreboding that Canada, in her onward and rapidly progressing career, cast a look back on her history, and dwell with complacency on the memories of her sons, whose remains lie beneath the sod of the plains of Abraham. It was with no fear of evil that these centenary feasts were celebrated, but with a lively faith and firm confidence in the future. When we recall to our minds that this country in the first stages of her existence could endure so much and perform so much, of what do we not now think her capable, greatly increased as she is in growth and prosperity and desiring, with a noble emulation, to rank side by side, with the great nations of the earth taking a part in their actions and placing her name with theirs on the page of universal history.

Let no superstitious fancy, let not the chance flight of some bird of ill omen disturb us in the enjoyment of the bright visions which hope seems to promise to Canada. A hundred years ago, Canada was a wilderness, peopled by savage tribes, and the theatre of a sanguinary warfare; a hundred years have gone by, and it has become a rich and powerful colonial dependency of Great-Britain. Under the French rule it was seldom prosperous; surrounded on all sides with enemies, abandoned by the mother country; often visited by scarcity, and its frontiers the scene of a ruthless border warfare. During that trying and heroic period the devotedness of the inhabitants to their King and to their country calls forth our involuntary admiration.

Whoever attentively considers that early period of our history cannot fail to express his surprise at the determined and unflinching bravery of the French colonists, who often carried desolation into the English colonies and for a long time resisted armies more numerous than the total population of New France. It required an English fleet, two English armies, to subdue a handful of men far distant from their fatherland and straitened even in their munitions of war. The history of New France, from the date of its settlement to that of its cession to Great-Britain, is a history of a series of struggles, of privations and of poverty.

Under the British rule, Canada presents a more agreeable picture.