

scandalizing bore (a hydra-headed monster this), the poetical and the punning bore, and still we could continue to swell the list. But we must end somewhere, and we do so here wishing that each and all of us may find from these common pests a good deliverance.

MONTCALM AND WOLFE.

THE two volumes of this work are now before the public, and are as we should expect from their distinguished author, Dr. Parkman, a most valuable contribution to Canadian history. In view of the importance of this work, as well as of all the works of the author, on whom our own University cheerfully bestowed its highest degree, it may not be out of place to try and set forth its chief contents in one or two short articles.

The work cannot be two highly valued by Canadians; in it they have not only a most readable and fascinating, but also an exceedingly reliable account of that part of the history of Canada with which it deals. The preface shows the extraordinary pains taken to know all that could be known on the subject. The amount of published and unpublished materials examined is simply prodigious. Nor has our author been satisfied with all he could find written in France, England and America; to give reality and life to his work he has visited and made careful observations of every spot where any of the important events which he undertakes to describe have taken place. "In short," he says, "the subject has been studied as much from life and in the open air as at the library table." Except in a collateral way, the work is confined to a period of fifteen years, from 1748 to 1763, and deals with the question, which, in the words of the author, was "the most momentous and far-reaching one ever brought to issue on this continent, namely, 'Shall France remain here or shall she not?'"

In this article only two topics will be referred to,—the position of the French and English in America at the beginning of the period, and the Acadian question.

As to the territory which France claimed to be the owner of, she may be said to have been all-powerful. With the exception of the strip of country between the Alleghany Mountains and the Atlantic ocean, Acadia, and a few ill-defined possessions around the Hudson Bay, she owned all North America beyond the Gulf of Mexico. The two great gateways of this vast region, the St. Lawrence and Mississippi rivers, were also in her hands; in the North she had Canada, and in the South, Louisiana. There was one particular, however, in which France fell woefully short, and that was population. An extensive territory she had, but men and women with whom to people this territory she had not. It is estimated that in all her dominions the whole white population did not much exceed 80,000, a result largely owing to France's exclusive system of colonizing; for it must be remembered that she did not admit into her colonies any and every one, but only those of her own religious faith.

With England matters were the reverse. Compared with France her territory was small, but her population very large. Her chief possessions lay along the

Atlantic on the east side of the Alleghanies, which are set down as containing about 1,160,000 people. Of the thirteen colonies which were planted here, four may be mentioned as being the most important,—Massachusetts, Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York. All the thirteen bore a resemblance to one another, each had legislatures elected by the people and a basis of English law; still they were not as much alike as could be wished. No real confederation existed between them, each colony refusing to interest herself beyond her own immediate boundaries. The representatives of the people, too, were often at feud with the governors, who with two exceptions were appointed either by the Crown or by a feudal proprietor. In Canada, on the other hand, there was no popular legislature to interfere with the commands of the central authority.

Thus did France and England engage in a war which the author describes as "the strife of a united and concentrated few against a divided and discordant many; a strife of the past against the future; of the old against the new; of moral and intellectual torpor against moral and intellectual life; of barren absolutism against a liberty, crude, incoherent and chaotic, yet full of prolific vitality."

In order to form correct opinions concerning our second topic, "the expulsion of the Acadians," we must hold intercourse with some such author as Parkman. It will not do to allow Longfellow's "*Evangeline*" to be our guide on the subject; for we know that that poem is decidedly anti-British, and that such a spirit is only excusable on the ground that a close adherence to facts would have given the author less scope for sentiment and pathos, the qualities of the poem which caused a distinguished critic to so justly call it an "Idyll of the heart." The punishment of exile, in the end inflicted on the Acadians, was so great, that we are apt to hastily condemn those who inflicted it. A careful study of facts, however, will place the matter in a truer light, and will show that the provocation to such a penalty was by no means slight.

In this necessarily short account we can merely mention facts which are very thoroughly substantiated and explained by Mr. Parkman. In 1710 Acadia was conquered by General Nicholson and three years after regularly given up to the British by the treaty of Utrecht. This treaty allowed the French to remain in the country and to have the free exercises of their religion so far as compatible with the laws of Great Britain, provided that they would acknowledge themselves to be subjects of the British. Those who did not wish to comply with the terms had a year allowed them during which they could leave. Though nearly all remained, yet it was not till seventeen years after the treaty that they could be induced to take the oath of allegiance; and when war again broke out in 1745, they showed to what extent they were faithful to their new vows. Many of them remained neutral, others actually took up arms in behalf of the French, while others gave them what indirect assistance they could by information and supplies. The peace of Aix-la-Chapelle brought the war but not the opposition of the French to a close.

The authorities both in Old and New France did