

history. I say this without disparagement to the volumes published by Desbarats of Quebec, or to the publications of Shea of New York. The latter, however, are too expensive; and of the former many are already scarce, such as "Champlain," which is now quoted at Paris at eighty francs.

There is abundant precedent for such an undertaking as that proposed. It is hardly necessary to remind you of such an organization as the Roxburghe Club instituted in 1812 by Earl Spencer and a number of gentlemen in London, for the republication of rare books and hitherto unpublished manuscripts. The Bannatyne Club, called after George Bannatyne, was established in 1823, in Edinburgh, by Sir Walter Scott and others, for printing works illustrative of the history, antiquities, and literature of Scotland, and published some 113 volumes, of which the *Edinburgh Review*, in 1835, said: "They form a series of contributions to the stock of historical literature which a munificent government alone, or such a society as the Bannatyne Club, could or would produce." The Maitland Club also, established in Glasgow in 1828, did its share in "reprinting rare and forgotten editions, and thus rescuing these from that oblivion into which the unhappy distaste of the age for such productions would otherwise have allowed them to sink."

The Hakluyt Society was established in 1846 for the purpose of printing rare and unpublished voyages and travels. As to its special field we find it stated, that "it aims at opening by this means an easier access to sources of a branch of knowledge which yields to none in importance and is superior to most in variety." A late writer says: "The fifty-seven volumes published by the society since its formation have been edited with great discrimination and care, and have come to be regarded as the standard text-books upon their respective subjects." The latest volume published is a re-issue, in a new form, of "The Hawkins Voyages," the first work published by the society. The Hakluyt Society, now mentioned, was preceded in time by the Camden Society. This society was organized in London in 1838 for the publication of old manuscripts of antiquarian or historical interest, and called after old William Camden, buried in Westminster Abbey, the most distinguished antiquarian of the Elizabethan era. Of his great work, "Britannia,"—of which, by the way, there is a copy of the 1610 edition in the Manitoba Society's library— it was quaintly said "it was the common sun whereat our modern writers have lighted all their little torches."

Following the example that these societies afford us, may we not, in the incipient stage of our historical researches, add an impetus to the work, by giving some assistance to the production of the means necessary for undertaking the study of our history. Let us suppose, as an instance of what might be done immediately, that a committee were appointed to select for issue, this or next year, three works. Let us choose a work dealing with the history of seaboard America, such as Oldmixon's "British Empire in America" with its curious maps, published in London in 1708, and now sold by dealers for \$10 for the two volumes: take as a second work, Hennepin's "Nouvelle Decouverte," in French, as representing, in an interesting way, the period of the French *régime*, now valued at from \$10 to \$20; and say, for a third, "Harmon's Journal of Northwestern Life," scarcely to be had at any price. Were these three, or others of a similar nature, taken, and a proposition made to some Canadian publisher as to the cost of publishing an edition of 500 or 1000 copies, there could be no risk in the matter. If, then, a prospectus were issued offering subscribers the three volumes this year, with the prospect of their being followed by a