

inquiry is, generally, an "impression." Sometimes, however, with a certain class of authors, that primary impression is the main object and made to precede, so to speak, the inquiry.

The adepts in this peculiar method of writing history invariably preface their compilations with touching references to the tremendous labours which they have accomplished. At the same time, deep regret is expressed for being unable, by lack of space or from some other reason, to initiate the reader into the arcana of their efforts and wonderful discoveries. This confession naturally creates an "impression" of sympathy, and is the first step.

They then set forth a very long list of distinguished persons who, at home and abroad, have given them advice and assistance, as no single man could possibly go through such arduous and difficult researches unassisted. The result is an "impression" that the writer has a good heart, overflowing with gratitude, and is incapable of appropriating the labours of others.

This is followed by a most imposing array of quotations and documents. The display produces the "impression" that the work is one of uncommon erudition and industry.

A goodly number of these documentary proofs are published in Latin, Spanish, Italian, &c., with direct references to the archives which contain them, here and elsewhere, and even with the rubrics, pages, files, and registers ostentatiously, if not always faithfully, cited. But as in twenty-five cases out of forty-two the real searchers or first editors, who have been thus plagiarized, are not mentioned, these twenty-five documents (which figure among the most important in the collection) all bear the appearance of original discoveries. They