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THE OLD RÉGIME IN CANADA.*

FEW works could be more attractive to Canadians than this. Vivid in narrative, and exceedingly well written, it combines the interest of the present with that of the historic past. The society of French Canada, the formation of which is here disclosed to us, still subsists in its most essential features, though the feudal Seigniories have been abolished, and allegiance to a British monarch has occupied without filling the place in French reverence which once belonged to Louis XIV. The *patois* remains. The bad farming remains. The manners and sentiments remain untouched by the revolution which in the mother country has obliterated the Bourbon civilization. The ecclesiastical influence remains in full vigour; and the struggle which is at this hour going on between the Jesuits and the Sulpicians in Quebec, is but the renewal of that depicted

by Mr. Parkman among the annals of the Old Régime.

A few years ago the people of the State of New York were electrified by the announcement that a colossal statue of extraordinary merit and mysterious origin had been dug up at Onondaga. One theory was that it had been left there by a Jesuit mission. The statue turned out to be the production of some enterprising Yankees, who netted a good many quarter dollars by their skilful exploitation of the appetite of a new country for antiquities. But there had really been a Jesuit mission, and one memorable in the annals of Jesuit daring and fortitude, at Onondaga.

The French settlements and missions at Montreal, Three Rivers, and Quebec barely dragged on a miserable life under the incessant attacks and frays of the Iroquois. "In the summer of 1653 all Canada turned to fasting and penance, processions, vows, and supplications. The Saints and the Virgin were beset with unceasing prayer. The wretched little colony was like some puny

* The Old Régime in Canada; by Francis Parkman, author of "Pioneers of France in the New World," "The Jesuits in North America," and "The Discovery of the Great West." Boston: Little, Brown & Co.