

recommended, as a first instalment, that the collections made by General Haldimand, Governor of Canada, during the United States Revolutionary War, should be copied. These had been presented to the British Museum in 1857, by his (grand) nephew, Mr. Wm. Haldimand. Two collections were presented by that gentleman. The one known as the "Haldimand Collection" relates to the events of that officer's career on this continent; the other—the "Bouquet Collection"—deals more especially with the military operations of Bouquet, the general outlines of which are known to historians. The documents in this latter collection cover a period of ten years, from 1754 to 1764, these for the year 1765, which form part of it, relating chiefly to the administration of Bouquet's estate. The collection is in thirty volumes.

"The period covered by the Haldimand Collection is the most obscure in Canadian history, and the correspondence throws a flood of light not only on events in Canada of that epoch, but on contemporary events in what were known as the American Colonies, whilst they still formed part of the British Empire, and during the Revolutionary War, from the first muttering of discontent, immediately after the cession of Canada, to the attainment of independence twenty years later. The information contained in these papers relates to an immense extent of territory. On the Ohio; the Mississippi; the Illinois; the Wabash; in the Floridas; on the Lakes from Superior and Huron eastward; in the frontier posts to the north and south; Michillimakinak, Detroit and Niagara; on Lake Ontario, with its fortified posts on the mainland and islands; on both sides of the St. Lawrence above and below Montreal to the Gulph and onwards to Nova Scotia; on the Richelieu, Lake Champlain, the Mohawk Valley, the Hudson. In fact, there is scarcely a locality bordering on, approaching to, or whose interests might affect the future of Canada, respecting which there are not more or less minute details to be found in this mass of correspondence, which fills no less than 232 volumes, and covers a period of thirty-three years of public service.

"The writers who treat of the period during which Haldimand was Governor and Commander-in-Chief had little opportunity of testing the truth of the charges brought against him by those who were detected in a conspiracy and imprisoned for the safety of the Province; nor does much regard appear to have been paid to the peculiar circumstances in which he was placed from the time he succeeded Carleton to the date of his recall in 1784. I must confess, that I have derived from the study of the correspondence a high idea of the abilities of Haldimand, and of the moderation he showed in the exercise of almost unlimited power at so critical a period, when a calm and sober judgment was needed to restrain passion and to enforce repression without having recourse to violence.

"Before leaving London, in 1873, I made arrangements for copying the documents in these two collections. In arranging for this work, it was proposed, in order to lessen the cost, to have only a careful selection made and copied. My own view was, that no man could tell what documents might or might not be safely omitted, even the most trifling being a link in the chain of evidence, as every investigator knows. The Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. John Henry Pope, saw the propriety of my recommendation, and gave the necessary authority to have the collections copied in full. On this point I may be pardoned for quoting the words of a recent writer on Egyptian antiquities. He says: 'No object has been deemed too trivial for examination. The relations of one monarch to another have been found on scraps of vases, chips of wood, and fragments of papyri. A mutilated hieroglyph on the dress of a statue has revealed a political mystery, and a series of erasures on granite blocks, a religious revolution.' A curious instance of the correctness of the statement just quoted is to be found in the proof afforded by a contract for the sale of a piece of land, recorded on a tablet now in the British Museum, of the existence of a King of Babylon twenty-five centuries ago, which was suspected but not proved.

"But whilst engaged in the work of investigation, that of acquisition was not neglected. By personal negotiation with the authorities at the War Office, for which the previous correspondence had prepared the way, I succeeded in convincing them