

honourable gentleman who acted as counsel for the Seigneurs before the tribunal which adjudicated on their claims.

It would take us into too wearisome details to discuss further, or in any manner commensurate with its importance, the subject of the old Archives of Canada—that is, those which relate to its affairs prior to the capitulation in 1760. Most of the original documents left behind in the country in that year, are now in the custody of one of the Departments of State at Ottawa. Of the Canadian Archives relating to affairs of dates subsequent to that of the cession of the Colony to England, and extending to the epoch of Confederation, it is safe to say that they are in a position even less accessible than the Records of anterior periods. It is probable the ancient French public papers which may remain in the country would be found to be so far sorted and properly labelled as to require no very large amount of expense and labour in procuring catalogues of them. We cannot however, say this of the later Archives. It has been already stated that a considerable mass of them is lodged at Montreal—some, but perhaps no considerable portion of the whole, being sorted, put in bundles, though there is reason for doubting whether the terms of endorsement on each packet are suitable for all the papers within. Those which are sorted and labelled bear dates beginning with the year 1764. In some of the upper shelves and partitions bundles of documents and loose papers are to be seen unsorted; and it is impossible, without examination, to pronounce upon the nature of their contents, or whether, as regards their dates, they correspond with the labelled documents nearest them. In other receptacles and places, on shelves, tables, and large boxes or cases, are multitudes of documents, papers, engrossed sheets, petitions, addresses, printed leaves and books, and some bound volumes of manuscript. An inspection of some of these latter gives the impression that their statistical and other contents are of considerable value, and that they are well worthy of being catalogued, with a summary of their nature, if not to be printed in full. What the contents of several large cases may be, must remain matter of conjecture until they are opened, and the documents within examined and sorted. On taking up a loose sheet in the upper part of an open case, it was seen to be an engrossed copy of an address, prepared, we believe, at Three Rivers, in the year 1787. In the same case were many other papers, some in the form of rolls, others written on foolscap, which from their appearance were judged to appertain to a variety of subjects and dates. The whole of the matters which I have thus summarily adverted to are contained in vaults underneath old Government House at Montreal. We were informed by the worthy keeper, Mr. David Luck,—who has been in attendance there upon Governors and Cabinet Ministers, and in charge of Records, since the days of Sir George Provost, and who, it is gratifying to learn, has just been handsomely pensioned off by the Dominion Government,—that the vaults were usually musty and damp, and scarcely safe for the purposes of search, without the use of a stove. We gathered, in fact, from his remarks, that at least two persons had accelerated their premature decease by too assiduously prosecuting there the work of searching for