

Valuable collections from private sources are being added to the Archives. The Hon. Mr. Justice Baby has made an important contribution to the history of the early settlement of Upper Canada, by the presentation of the documents and first deeds granted to the settlers of Markham by Mr. Berczy, by whom the colony was founded. Mr. Justice Baby has also forwarded, in accordance with a general request made in the report for last year, the bills introduced in the Senate and House of Commons for two of the Sessions of which bills were wanting. It is to be hoped that others may follow the example, so that a complete record may be obtained, for reasons already given. A collection of documents, including the correspondence between Captain Miles Macdonell and Lord Selkirk, has been acquired from the Misses Macdonell, of Brockville; the correspondence gives details of the first steps taken to carry out Lord Selkirk's scheme for forming the settlement on the Red River. A portion of it is published in a note and an account given of Captain Macdonnell, &c., in a subsequent part of this report. The capture and occupation of Prairie du Chien, on the Mississippi, during the war of 1812, is scarcely referred to in any history. It was restored to the United States at the conclusion of the war. The account by Lt.-Col McKay of the expedition, &c., forms part of the military correspondence, C series, volume 685. The acquisition recently of the correspondence of Captain Bulger with Colonel McDouall, commanding at Michillimakinak, adds to the value of the strictly official documents contained in the military correspondence.

The Right Honourable the Master of the Rolls has presented the volumes recently published by the Public Record Office, in addition to those previously acknowledged. A list of the books, documents, &c., presented during the year will be found at note H.

The most rigid economy has been observed in the expenditure of the amount voted by Parliament for the Archives service. The importance of instituting researches among the state papers of the United States has not been overlooked, but these can be conducted to much more advantage after the documents in London and Paris have been thoroughly examined. A striking proof of this may be found by referring to the Documentary and Colonial histories of New York, published by the Legislature of that state. The documents published in these volumes are almost exclusively drawn from the same collections as those in which investigations are now proceeding under the directions of this branch, the originals in full being now accessible free from many restrictions which previously existed.

The calendar of the Haldimand papers is continued. An examination will show the great value of these documents to any who desire to investigate the events of that period, which have hitherto been little known. What has been written of that particular time has been, in general, of little value, owing to the want of the necessary information. This can now, to a very large extent, be supplied here, as besides the political documents in this collection, there are very important details of the military movements during the Revolutionary War to be found, not only