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*Jean évêque de Québec*

II. — MGR DE SAINT-VALLIER

(Voir notice, page 56)

# LE COURRIER DU LIVRE

VOL. III. — No 26

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## JOHN AND SEBASTIAN CABOT

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### IV

#### THE LANDFALL (1)

Here is the gordian knot. The difficulty effectively lies in the famous inscription which can be seen on Cabot's map, at the North extremity of Cape Breton, near the spot now called Cape North :

PRIMA TIERRA VISTA, or, *the first land seen*. This land, says the explanatory legend of the map, was discovered by Joan Caboto, a Venetian, and Sebastian Caboto, his son, in the year of Our Lord MCCCCXCIIII, the twenty-fourth of June in the morning ; they called it by the name of *prima tierra vista*, and to a large island in the neighborhood of the said land the name of Saint Joan was given, it having been discovered on the day of the feast of Saint John.

So the Cabotian map says. The first land seen when he reaches America is Cape Breton. It was, we must remember the date well, on the 24th June 1494 !

This land was called by Cabot *Prima tierra vista* !

The same day, he discovers the Island of St. John !

Evidently, Cabot, junior, had already, in 1544, lost his memory, for he puts his voyage three years back. It is no more 1497, but 1494. Some writers have tried to explain this anachronism by attributing it to an error of the engraver. Explanations of that kind are always unsatisfactory, and we are not bound to accept them. I would rather believe that it is the cartographer or the translator who has committed that error, the more so if his name was not Sebastian Cabot. Harrisse says appropriately : " The critic has then the right of

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(1) See *Le Courrier du Livre*, vol. III, p. 8.

asking if that document, of which only one copy is known to-day, has not undergone during the course of years, the fate peculiar to documents of the same kind, and if the copy in the Bibliothèque Nationale gives a representation of the original type, similar in all its parts to that made out by Sebastian Cabot ”.

According to HARRISSE, there had been four editions of that map :

1. The map in the Bibliothèque Nationale, drawn in 1544 ; found at a curate's dwelling in Bavière in 1843 ;

2. The map seen at Oxford by Nicolas HESCHOFF, in 1566 ; drawn in 1549 ;

3. The map engraved by Clement Adams, seen by Hakluyt in 1565 ;

4. Finally the map Purchas pretends to have examined in the private gallery of the King of England. It bore the date of 1549.

All these editions are quite alike, but they all differ on several points. Without losing our time by making tedious comparisons, we may say, in brief, that the Cabotian map is far from being a document on which we can rely to make assertions in matters of discoveries, and still more so in geographical science. In certain respects, the learned professor of cosmography is far behind others. Newfoundland is, according to him, but a vast archipelago ; Cape Breton is a main land, etc., etc. The French maps issued before his are, generally, more accurate.

The map drawn by Sebastian Cabot is the only one which claims, by its legend, that the English have been the first to land at Cape Breton. All the other geographical monuments of that period do not say a word about it. However, they are unanimous in limiting the English discoveries to Labrador. Let us make a short analysis of those old maps.

The map of Juan de la Cosa, drawn in 1500, shows us the *Cavo de Inghlaterra* (cape of England) ; Humboldt believes it to be a promontory in the neighborhood of Belle-Isle, which would now be, according to Dr Kohl, Cape Race.

It is the remotest mention of English discoveries, and it belongs to Newfoundland. We are still far from Cape Breton.

In 1511 a *portulan* was published by the Vicomte de Maggiolo. M. D'AVEZAC describes it as follows :

“ The polar regions in a radius of nearly thirty-five degrees offer the most curious and singular configurations surrounding the Polar sea, with a continuous cloud from the

*Norvega* to one *Terra de los Ingress* (English Land), more to the North by about ten degrees than the *Terra de Lavorador de rey de portugall*”.

It is now more to the North that we must look for Cabot's discoveries.

The map of Robert Thorne (1527), an Englishman of Bristol, places parallel to Labrador which he calls *Nova terra laboratorum dicta*, the following legend: *Terra nec ab Anglis primum fuit inventa*, that is: LAND FIRST DISCOVERED BY THE ENGLISH.

We can read on Ribeiro's map where Labrador should be: *Esta tierra descubrieron los Ingleses*, or, THIS LAND HAS BEEN DISCOVERED BY THE ENGLISH.

Verazzano's map marks out Labrador with this legend:

*Questra terra fu discoperta da inghilesi*, with the arms of England over it.

Wolfenbuttel's globe (1534) is more explicit than the others. At Labrador we can read this legend: *Ce pays fut decouvert par les Anglais de la ville de Bristol*, that is: THIS COUNTRY WAS DISCOVERED BY THE ENGLISH OF THE CITY OF BRISTOL. Now, when Cabot left his country, he settled at Bristol. There can be no question of some other discoverers.

From 1534, the cartographers seem to have forgotten all about Cabot's voyages. They only pay attention to the discoveries of Jacques Cartier and Jean Alfonse, Roberval's pilot, and they distort all their geographical and hydrographical data. It seems that Cabot's map should have brought some new documents to the map makers. But the scientific men have only been aware of his landing in an approximate manner and they are unanimous in placing it in the Labrador regions.

If we look attentively into the opinions of the historians of the latter part of the fifteenth century who have written on the English discoveries in America, we are astonished to find the same confusion which always prevails in all the relations. Like Peter Martyr, Ramusio and Gomara do not mention any date. Some have placed the first voyage in 1494; some others in 1496, 1497, 1498 and even 1516.

According to some writers, Cabot landed at Labrador, while others put his landing at Newfoundland. A few are of opinion that he returned to Bristol before landing on the American continent.

As my fixed intention is to prove everything I advance, I will give some authorities, beginning with Peter Martyr, the personal friend of Sebastian Cabot.

“ These regions are cauled *Terra Florida* and *Regio Baccalearum* or *Bacchallaos* of the which you may reade sumwhat in this booke in the voyage of the woorthy owlde man yet lyving, Sebastiane Cabote, in the VI booke of the thyrdle Decade. But Cabot touched only in the north corner and most barbarous part hereof, from whence he was repulsed with Ise in the moneth of July ” (1).

Purchas has left a narration attributed to Cabot himself, in the following terms :

“ The map of *Sebastian Cabot*, cut by *Clement Adams*, relateth, That *John Cabot*, a Venetian and his sonne *Sebastian*, set out from Bristol, discovering the Land, called it *Prima Vista*, and the Island before it *S. Johns*. ” (2)

In the fourth volume of the *Encyclopediu Britannica*, we read the following words :

“ This year (1497), on St. John the Baptist's day, the land of America was found by the merchants of Bristowe in a ship of Bristol called the *Matthew*, the which said ship departed from the port of Bristowe, the second of May, and came home again 6th August following ”. And in a note at the bottom of the page : “ These important dates are from an ancient manuscript for several generations in possession of the family of Hill Court, Gloucestershire. ” (3)

But here is a last testimony which is worth its weight in gold. I suppose it has been overlooked by several historians who might have used it with profit. It is that of Ellis, an English writer, whose good faith cannot be suspected. Here is the passage I find in his work entitled : *Voyage to Hudson's Bay* :

“ In the Spring of the Year following being 1497, he (John Cabot) sailed from Bristol, with one Ship fitted out at the King's Expence, and three or four smaller Vessels freighted by the Merchants there, with coarse Caps, Cloth, Laces, etc., upon his Discovery ; in which upon the 24th of June, about Five in the Morning, he saw Land, which for that Reason he called *Prima Vista*, or, first seen, which was Part of Newfoundland and afterwards another Smaller Island, which he called *St. John's* ”. (4)

Therefore, it is not necessary to refer to Cabot's map to have an idea of the English discovery in America. Ellis

(1) Martyr. The Discoverer of the New World. Preface to the Reader, by Richard Eden.

(2) Purchas, His Pilgrimage, London, 1617, p. 915.

(3) Encyclopediu Britannica, vol. 4, p. 350.

(4) *A Voyage to Hudson's Bay, in the years 1746 and 1747*. By Henry Ellis. London 1748. p. 3-4.

seems even more learned than Cabot the cartographer, who, in 1544, had already lost the date of his first voyage. How is it that several of our modern historians are so intent in speaking of the legend of the Cabotian map, with its *Prima Vista*, its Island of St. John, and that they set aside the relation of a man so well informed as Ellis? Is it because they did not read Ellis? If they read him, they preferred not to say a word about what he reports.

Everything can be found in his relation :

The year !—1497.

The date !—The 24th of June.

The hour !—Five o'clock in the morning.

The land discovered !—Newfoundland.

The precise spot !—Prima Vista.

The neighboring island !—St. John.

What more categorical details do we want ?

What can be given to contradict this testimony ?

Nothing else but Cabot's map, and we know what to think of it .

Apocryphical ? Perhaps.

Imperfect ? Certainly.

Interpolated ? Very probably.

“ All these facts prove, says HARRISSE, that the names, legends and configurations of the northern extremity of the New Continent, as inscribed and depicted in charts emanating from Spanish cosmographers, in general, and Diego Ribeiro in particular, were supplied directly by Sebastian Cabot or through his professional instrumentality, and that for almost half a century he placed his landfall many degrees farther north than the *Prima vista* of the Cabotian planisphere of 1544.” (1)

## V

### GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are some deductions flowing from what has been previously said, that can be invoked against those who believe in the Cabotian map as in a text of the Bible.

1. Is it not strange, at first, that Cabot the cartographer has placed his *Prima Tierra Vista* on the *Terre des Bretons* as it was called later. Cabot had not then seen any land before

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(1) HARRISSE. John Cabot, p. 84.

arriving at Cape Breton? Therefore, what course did he follow? All the historians are unanimous in saying that he coasted the American Continent, some at the 62nd, others at the 58th or 56th degree of North latitude. Consequently, he must have either come across Labrador or Newfoundland. Is it not right to believe that, before entering the gulf of St. Lawrence, if he ever penetrated into it, he coasted the eastern side of the Labrador or Newfoundland territories? Nevertheless, it is well established that Cabot sailed along the coasts for a length of three hundred leagues before returning.

Hakluyt left us the text of the legend published on Cabot's map, in Clement Adams' edition. It reads as follows :

" In the yeere of our Lord 1494 (read 1497) John Cabot a Venetian . . . discovered that land which no man before that time had attempted, on the 24 of June, about five of the clocke early in the morning. This land he called Prima Vista, that is to say First seene, because as I suppose it was that part whereof they had the first sight from sea . . . "

2. When we know that Cabot had most of the maps published before his, which he had the opportunity of collecting in his quality of pilot major and professor of cosmography in the *Hotel du Négoce* at Seville, how can we explain the strange fact of his placing Cape Breton three degrees more to the South East than the Cape where he puts his famous inscription? We must conclude that he knew nothing of the geography of these regions.

3. In the documents previously quoted and in some others which were published afterwards, we find, when Cabot's discoveries of new lands are mentioned, the English terms of *New found land* or *New found isle*. What does this mean?

Barnett wrote in his history of Bristol these significant words : " In the year 1497, June 24th, on Saint John's day, as it is in a manuscript in my possession, was *Newfoundland* found by Bristol men in a ship called the Matthew."

It is no one else than Cabot who is meant by " Bristol men".

Pasqualigo in his letter dated August 23rd, 1497, says : " The discoverer planted on his *new found land* a large cross".

On August the 6th, when he arrived from America, Cabot received from Henri VII, as a reward for his services a gratification which has been taken from the royal chest. It is indicated in the following note : " To him who *found* the *New Isle*, 10 l.



Has any one had the idea of attributing this appellation of *new found land* to another land or island than Newfoundland? In any case, who has ever thought of Cape Breton?

4. As to the Island of St. John, Dr Kolh is of opinion that its name has been given by the French, and that Cabot has only, for this, copied the French maps. This opinion seems to me to be the most admissible.

In Jean Alfonse *Cosmographie*, commenced in 1544 and terminated the 24th of November 1545—Cabot's map was then very little known—we find the *Isle de Saint-Jean* perfectly described, not only in the maps but also in the text of his work. The following passage is remarkable for its accuracy and precision: "If you run twenty leagues to the west north west along the coast, in the center of this region and nearer the Terre de Breton than the new found land. . . . St. Jean and Bryon and Bird Island are at the 47<sup>n</sup> north."

Is it not reasonable to believe, when we read this paragraph of his *Cosmographie*, that Jean Alfonse is the first European who called Prince Edward Island by a name which ought to be still in honor. Some one may object that the pilot of Saintonge might have had the opportunity of consulting Cabot's map published in 1544. It is very improbable that Alfonse had seen this map, when Cabot was still working at it, unless he had been in relation with Cabot himself. Cabot was then living at Seville, in Spain, and he could not think of travelling on account of his two charges. If one had the opportunity of having the other's work, it was Cabot, who, on account of his position, was endeavoring to collect all the maps of which he heard.

5. We have already seen that the name of Cape Breton was not given by Cabot. He committed an error in locating that island to which he gives the name of Berto; he places it three degrees more to the south east than its true position and he makes it smaller than it really is. An excusable error, if he had not seen it, but unpardonable if he landed on it on the 24th of June, 1497.

Therefore, where does that name of Breton come from? At the beginning of the sixteenth century, all the lands and islands bathed by the waters of the gulf of St. Lawrence, the largest part of which was called *Entrée des Bretons* (Entrance of the Bretons) were designated by the name of *Terres Bretonnes*, (Lands of the Bretons). The main land itself, from that part included between the French Bay (Bay of Fundy), down to the Virginia, was then called by the name of *Terre Bretonne* (Land of the Breton), and sometimes *Terre Française* (*Terra Francisca*). It can be seen on

the Dauphin's map where the *Land of the Breton* is placed on this coast which was soon to be called *Norembeguz*.

All was French in the surroundings, and the authorities who attribute the name of Cape Breton to the French are numerous. The English authors themselves have never sought, that I know of, to attribute the paternity of this appellation to John Cabot or to his son Sebastian. Therefore, when Cabot, in 1544, wrote his famous inscription of *Tierra prima vista*, he knew nothing of the geographical position of Cape Breton, as he took less interest in it than the Portuguese and Spanish cosmographers. How could he so perfectly describe the land he had seen for the first time, if he did not know the elementary data of the geography of that region?

## VI

### AUTHORITIES

Who are the most remarkable historians who, by their writings, do not pay any attention to Cabot's landfall at Cape Breton, and who rely on the ancient and universal belief of a landfall at Labrador or Newfoundland? Let us first quote the writers of the last centuries, those who have had the opportunity to compile the traditions and to preserve them as they were.

We have read the opinion of Ellis, an English historian of the eighteenth century. Let us listen now to Oldmixon in his work entitled : *The British Empire in America*, published in London, in 1741 :

“ This large Island (Newfoundland) was discovered by Sebastian Cabot, who was sent to America by Henry VII, King of England, in the year 1497, to make Discoveries, 4 or 5 years only after Christopher Colombus had discovered the new World ”.

Dumont, in his *Histoire et Commerce des Colonies Angloises*, published in London, in 1755, wrote : “ Most of the English authors attribute the discovery of Newfoundland to Sebastian, although he did not take any part in it beyond accompanying his father John Cabot. It is John Cabot whom Henry VII authorized to sail, under the flag of England, for new lands. We see in Rymer's acts the patent granted to him the fifth of March, 1496 ” (1).

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(1) Dumont. *Histoire et Commerce des Colonies Angloises*, p. 28.

Marvor says, in his *Historical Account of Voyages* :

“ This first voyage of importance in which Sebastian Cabot was engaged, seems to have been that made by his father John, who had obtained a Commission from Henry VII for a discovery of a north west passage to India, the favourite object of Columbus. They sailed from Bristol in the spring of 1494, and pursuing their course with favouring gales, on the 24th of June saw Newfoundland, to which they gave the name of *Prima Vista*, or *First Seen*. Going ashore, on a small island on this Coast, they gave it the appellation of *St. John's*, from its being discovered on the day dedicated to *St. John the Baptist*. (1) ”

As to the authors of the nineteenth century, we have W. Robertson who published, in 1831, an extensive work entitled : *History of the Discovery and Settlement of America*, in which he says :

“ Cabot discovered a large island, which he called *Prima Vista*, and his sailors *Newfoundland* ; and in a few days he descried a smaller isle, to which he gave the name of *St. John*. He landed on both these (June 24).”

In 1833, P. F. Tytler published in New York a book entitled : *Historical View of the Progress of Discovery of the more Northern Coast of America*, where we find that Cabot discovered, in 1497, “ the New Isle, which was probably the name then given to Newfoundland ” (2).

Let us now quote the Canadian historians, English and French. What does Garneau say :

“ Early in 1497, Sebastian (John) Cabot, sailed in a Bristol ship with the view of seeking a N. W. passage to India. On June 24th he reached the American N. E. coast, probably the shore-line of Labrador, about lat. 56' n.” (3).

Ferland writes : The 24th of June 1497, John Cabot, Venetian, and his son Sebastian, born at Bristol, England, having received a Commission from Henri VII, king of England, to go to the discovery of some new lands, sighted America near the 56th degree of north latitude ” (4).

Kingsford says :

“ Cabot's voyage to Newfoundland was in 1497. It was at this date the reign of Henry VII, that the first effort was made for the creation of an English navy.”

(1) Marvor. *Historical account of the most celebrated Voyages, Travels, and Discoveries from the time of Columbus to the present period*. London, 1796. 25 vol. 18mo. Vol. I, p. 67.

(2) Page 18.

(3) Garneau, translated by A. Bell. vol. I, p. 45.

(4) Ferland. *Histoire du Canada*, vol. I. p. 9.

We can see in McMullin : " Cabot sailed from the port of Bristol about the middle of May, 1497 ; and following very nearly the same course now pursued by vessels making the voyage from Great Britain to North America, discovered, on the 26th of June, the Island of Newfoundland, etc."

Roberts : " An expedition from Bristol, under the leadership of John Cabot, reached the continent at a point which is now Canadian territory." And he adds this note : " Probably a point on the Labrador coast, though some authorities hold it to have been the gulf coast of Nova Scotia. "

Clement in his manual of Canadian History writes : " In 1497, Henry VII commissioned a Venetian navigator, John Cabot, to sail north westerly, in the hope that in that direction perchance a way to Asia might be found. But, it has never been made quite clear what part of our coast he visited."

Among the writers of the nineteenth century, there are those to whom the discovery of Cabot's planisphere has given prudence, there are those also who have seized upon that document as if it were sure, irrefutable, worthy of faith. Among them we see celebrated men like Harrisse, Mgr Howley, S. E. Dawson, Prowse, J. P. Howley, Mgr O'Brien, Harvey, Bryant, Dr Kohl, Deane, D'Avezac, and how many others? Each one advocates his favorite thesis. The result is that, with such a conflict of opinions, it is impossible to distinguish truth from error.

At all events we must concede, and many may be of that opinion, that Harrisse is the historian who has written the most on Cabot ; he has collected several documents and he has used them with knowledge. His last work published in the English language, in London, is the work of a man who knows the subject he is treating ; if, after this, his testimony be not worth more than that of an obscure historian, it is entirely useless to advance an opinion based on his. Let him refute this who feels able to do so. Harrisse pretends that the Cabotian map has been interpolated, for some unknown reasons, and that Sebastian Cabot is not always credible, since he has often disguised the truth, when it served his interests to do so. Cabot often contradicts himself, and he often commits some very apparent anachronisms. His map has been made out of a French map published three years previous ; as well, after all, as the whole of his cartographical work on America is modeled on the maps of which that of Cartier is the prototype.

To close this study, I do not think I can do better than to quote the opinion of two men very well known by all the historians. One is a Canadian, of Scottish descent, the other

is an American ; both have made special studies on the cosmography of ancient times. Very well posted up in the matters pertaining to the history of Canada and America, they have published works of great value and of authoritative weight. One is Mr. J. G. Bourinot, secretary of the Royal Society of Canada ; the name of the other is Justin Winsor : he has been for a long time librarian of the famous University of Cambridge.

Mr. Bourinot has written a history of Cape Breton, his native country. His work is conscientiously made, full of bibliographical references. He has particularly applied his studies to thoroughly characterize the voyages of the first discoverers in the Gulf of St. Lawrence : he follows them every where, and aided by documents as well as maps, his solutions are correct enough. In short, he is an authority for me. Well, let us quote what he says touching the question interested :

“ In a map of 1544, only discovered in Germany in 1843, and attributed to Sebastian Cabot, but not accepted by all historians as authentic, the northeastern point of the mainland of North America, presumably Cape North, is put down as “ prima tierra vista ” ; and there are not a few historical students who believe that this was actually the landfall seen by John Cabot in his first memorable voyage to this Continent. In the controversy which has gone for years as to the first land seen by Cabot and his son — whether the Coast of Labrador, or the northeastern cape of Cape Breton, or Cape Bonavista, or some other headland on the eastern shore of Newfoundland — many speculations and arguments have been, and will probably continue to be advanced in support of these various theories ; and the reader who wishes to come to some definite conclusion on this vexed subject only rises from the study of these learned disquisitions with the feeling that a great mass of knowledge has been devoted to very little purpose except that purpose be to leave the question still open, and give employment to learned antiquarians for all time to come ” (1).

Justin Winsor had before him all the maps of the sixteenth century, when, after having studied them thoroughly, he has written in his book entitled *Columbus*, the following appreciation of Cabot's life and works. That distinguished historian is not more affirmative than Mr. Bourinot :

“ Cabot was for over three hundred years considered as

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(1) Bourinot. History of Cape Breton. Transactions of Royal Society of Canada. 1891. vol. IX, p. 176 and 177.

having made his landfall on the coast of Labrador, or at least we find no record that the legend of the map of 1544, placing it at Cape Breton, had impressed itself authoritatively upon the minds of Cabot's contemporaries and successors. Biddle and Humboldt, in the early part of the present century, accepted the Labrador landfall with little question. So it happened that when, in 1843, the Cabot mappemonde of 1544 was discovered, and it was to place the landfall at the island of Cape Breton, a certain definiteness, where there have been so much vagueness, afforded the student some relief; but as the novelty of the sensation wore off, confidence was again lost, inasmuch as the various uncertainties of the document give much ground for the rejection of all points of the testimony at variance with better vouched beliefs. . .

“ Here is some ground for thinking that he could not have entered the gulf of St. Lawrence at all. He landed nowhere and saw no inhabitants. If he struck the mainland, it was probably the coasts of New Brunswick or Labrador, bordering on the Gulf of Saint-Lawrence”.

N.-E. DIONNE.

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## UN PARI DE DIABLE-BLEU

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UN HÉROS DE 1812

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UN mien ami, qui me fait de temps à autre l'honneur de venir fumer mon tabac et enfumer mon sauctum, m'était, l'autre jour, arrivé avec un diable-bleu féroce, et, après le bonjour d'usage, il n'avait trouvé rien de mieux à faire que de me tourner le dos pour se planter, taciturne et morose, devant le plan des cantons de l'agence de Montmagny qui tapisse le pan le plus aristocratique de mon bureau.

J'ai pour principe de ne jamais chercher noise au mal de rate, où qu'il loge, et je laissai discrètement le pauvre ahuri conter tout à son aise ses peines à mon plan. Il y avait dix bonnes minutes que durait cet intéressant entretien lorsque mon ami, se retournant brusquement vers moi :

— Ah ! ça, s'écria-t-il d'un ton un peu bourru, dis-moi donc une bonne fois en quel honneur on a baptisé du nom insipide

de Rolette un des plus beaux cantons de l'agence de Montmagny. Ce nom, il m'agace les nerfs au superlatif, précisément parce que je ne vois pas à quels titres il figure sur cette carte, et je parie tout ce que tu voudras que tu n'en sais rien et que tu n'en sauras jamais plus long que moi là-dessus.

—Tenu, mon vieux, repris-je ; tenu, ton pari ; mais je fixe l'enjeu, comme tu m'en donne le droit. Donc, je te prouve sur l'heure que le parrain du canton Rolette savait parfaitement ce qu'il faisait et, ma preuve faite, tu prends solennellement l'engagement de congédier, en toute occasion, ton diable-bleu, au seul nom de Rolette !

Et sur ce, je fis passer sous les yeux de mon ami deux petits épisodes historiques que j'avais sous la main et dans lesquels figure héroïquement un Rolette.

Il fut entendu entre nous deux que j'avais gagné mon pari, et il fut ensuite convenu que je raconterais comment je l'ai gagné.

Et voilà pourquoi me voilà en frais de prose.

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J'ignore tout à fait quelle grande action, quel acte patriotique celui qui a baptisé le canton Rolette a eu en vue de glorifier ; j'ignore même si cet hommage s'adresse bien à mon *Rolette*. Mais ce que je sais—et cela suffit—c'est qu'il y a eu un Rolette qui a mérité ce grand honneur.

Ce Rolette est un des nombreux héros qui ont jeté tant de lustre sur notre race pendant la guerre de 1812.

Ce n'est ici ni le lieu ni l'occasion de retracer son origine et de le suivre du berceau à la tombe ; au reste, je n'ai pris la plume que pour narrer deux épisodes, et je ne veux pas sortir de mon cadre.

Ces deux épisodes je les trouve dans un ouvrage anglais très remarquable comme style et renseignements, publiés en 1864, par le colonel William-T. Coffin, sous le titre de : 1812—*The War and its moral—A Canadian Chronicle—*(1812—La guerre et sa morale—Chronique Canadienne).—L'auteur, qui, entre parenthèses, rend parfaitement justice à notre race, a fait lui-même la campagne de 1812 en qualité d'officier d'état-major, et s'est trouvé, par conséquent, bien placé pour juger les hommes et les choses. Ce qu'il dit sur le compte de Rolette, il le rapporte sur la foi d'un témoin oculaire, officier dans le Commissariat, *Squire Reynolds*.

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Un mot de mise en scène avant de donner la parole au témoin du colonel Coffin.

Le Congrès américain venait de déclarer la guerre à l'Angleterre (le 18 juin 1812), et, du côté du Canada, on se préparait partout à recevoir chaudement les envahisseurs. Un corps de volontaires, comprenant nombre de Canadiens-Français, avait été réuni, dans les environs de Détroit, par les ordres du général Brock, qui avait en même temps organisé une petite flottille de goélettes armées pour la protection des côtes canadiennes sur les grands lacs. Une de ces goélettes était sous le commandement de Rolette.

“ Le 3 juillet, dit le *Squire* Reynolds, un brillant fait d'armes fut accompli par le lieutenant Rolette, un brave (*plucky*) petit Canadien-Français de Québec, ayant le grade de lieutenant dans la marine provinciale. Il était sorti en chaloupe avec huit hommes, lorsqu'il vit s'approcher un navire sous pavillon américain. Il l'aborda carrément, sauta sur son pont et se trouva au milieu d'uniformes américains. Sans dire un mot, il plaça une sentinelle au coffre d'armes, une autre à l'échelle de la dunette, une troisième à la roue, et cela fait, il donna ordre à haute voix de faire feu sur quiconque résisterait. L'équipage américain n'avait pas encore eu vent de la déclaration de la guerre. Outre l'équipage, il y avait à bord une garde de trente-trois soldats. Revenus promptement de leur surprise et voyant le petit nombre des assaillants, les Américains ne tardèrent pas à montrer les gros yeux à leurs capteurs; mais le hasard fit que le navire se trouvait, dans le moment, à petite distance d'un moulin à vent érigé sur la rive canadienne, et auquel un parapet de billots donnait l'apparence d'un petit fort. Rolette, avec une grande présence d'esprit, donna à haute voix ordre au timonier d'amener le navire sous les canons de la batterie imaginaire. Cela eut pour le moment son effet. Heureusement, un bateau monté par des marins sous les ordres d'un officier, arriva sur l'entrefaite; ce qui permit à Rolette de garder sa prise. Ce navire était le paquebot de Cayuga ayant à son bord la caisse militaire du général américain Hull, du bagage extra, des approvisionnements militaires et médicaux, et toute la correspondance de l'armée américaine.

Cet exploit de Rolette fut d'un grand service au général Brock lorsqu'il arriva le 13 août ”.



L'autre épisode, tout en étant moins brillante, n'en est pas moins caractéristique et ne fait pas moins d'honneur au courage militaire de Rolette.

C'était lors d'une des premières rencontres sérieuses entre les troupes canadiennes et les troupes américaines. Le lieutenant Rolette avait charge d'une pièce de canon.

“ Avant la bataille, dit le témoin oculaire du colonel Coffin, Rolette vint me trouver et me dit qu'il avait un furieux mal de tête qui le rendait très malade. Je l'engageai à s'en aller. Le brave petit Canadien-français se retourne vers moi comme si je l'avais insulté. “ On m'a, dit-il, confié un canon, et je me couvrirais d'une honte éternelle si j'abandonnais mon poste ”. “ Tenez, ajouta-t-il, en me présentant un volumineux foulard, roulez-moi cela bien serré autour de la tête ”. Je roulai le foulard très serré et Rolette s'éloigna d'un pas rapide en disant : “ Je suis mieux, maintenant ”. Après la bataille, il vint me trouver de nouveau. “ Ce foulard, me dit-il, m'a sauvé la vie, voyez ”. Dans les plis du foulard, en effet, était une balle de fusil. La balle était entrée en coupant partiellement la soie et s'était aplatie d'un côté sur le crâne du lieutenant, un crâne qui devait être cuirassé. L'endroit où la balle avait frappé la tête du lieutenant était tuméfié, violacé. Rolette était en position sur le front de notre ligne de bataille et il avait été blessé par nos propres soldats ”.

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Et bien ; qu'en dites-vous ?

Est-ce que le nom de Rolette n'en vaut pas un autre et est-ce que le canton qui le porte a lieu d'en rougir ?

Enfin, est-ce que je n'ai pas loyalement gagné mon pari ?

J'aurais invraisemblablement trouvé dans nos chroniques canadiennes tout ce qu'il fallait pour mettre en lumière le nom de Rolette ; mais on comprend que j'éprouve une certaine jouissance, un certain orgueil à montrer ainsi un des nôtres couronné de lauriers par un historien qui ne saurait, dès lors, être soupçonné de forcer, à notre endroit, la note glorieuse.

Au reste, ce n'est pas là la seule feuille de l'intéressant livre du colonel Coffin où on trouve des choses aimables et flatteuses à l'adresse des Canadiens-français, et quelque bon jour, peut-être sans qu'il soit besoin qu'un nouveau pari pousse à la roue, je ferai une autre petite excursion dans cette direction.

EUG. RENAULT.

1837

## AND MY CONNECTION WITH IT (1)

Sir John Colborne, now commanding in Montreal, determined to attack this formidable army. Two expeditions were sent out,—one under Col. Wetherall, by the way of Chambly; the other under Col. Gore, by the way of Sorel,—to secure the capture of leading men, by an attack on both sides.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, the 22nd November, Col. Gore left Montreal with two companies of the Twenty-fourth Regiment, and one company of the Thirty-second (Markham's), and a small party of volunteer cavalry, with one howitzer 12-pounder. Two companies of the Sixty-sixth joined them at Sorel. At ten o'clock at night, the march commenced for St. Denis, eighteen miles. It was raining heavily, and the road was knee deep almost in soft mud; towards morning it commenced freezing, and a snow-storm faced the troops. Cold and exhausted they struggled on, Markham's company leading, picking their way, as they best could, expecting to breakfast at St. Denis, without opposition. The first files had nearly entered the village, when fire opened upon them. The howitzer, unlimbered at 250 yards, opened fire in return; but the troops taking shelter round barns and houses, were too benumbed to handle their muskets. Markham, sheltered behind a long barn, twice rushed out to lead an assault, and each time received a musket wound, the last one very serious. Firing continued for a few hours, chiefly from the howitzer, and then the troops retreated to Sorel, leaving the gun behind as a trophy for the "patriots". Such was the relation made to me by some wounded men, who were left prisoners, and it corresponds with the official report. Had a dash been made in the morning, the troops would have easily carried it. Had the "patriots" followed the exhausted retreating troops, in the afternoon, possibly all would have been captured; but neither knew the weakness of the other.

Wolfred Nelson, one of the bravest of the braves, commanded at St. Denis. He had not raised the standard of revolt, but only defended himself against an illegal warrant. In war he would have been a great General; but perhaps a Murat, greater in action than in council. He had

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(1) See *Le Courrier du Livre*, vol. II, pp. 342 and 371; vol. III, p. 19.

for defence only about fifty fowling pieces of any use ; a small embankment across the road was a protection to sharpshooters ; and the stronghold was a stout stone house, at the lower end of the village. Round-shot knocked in the upper gable,—there were three killed in the garret ; below the rafters, the walls were too solid for injury. My most intimate friend, Charles Ovide Perrault, who had been one of the most active agents of agitation, and the greatest young man I ever met, was mortally wounded, while crossing the street, by an accidental parting shot.

One painful event marked the day. Lieut. Weir, of the 32nd Regiment, left Sorel to overtake Col. Gore's command. Accidentally getting upon a wrong road, he drove past, and on to St. Denis, where he was made a prisoner, as I was early informed by a letter from Nelson, who said he would be treated with every consideration. When the troops approached in the morning, he was placed in a waggon to be sent to me, at St. Charles (nine miles), in charge of two old, respectable men. At a short distance, he jumped out to escape ; and, in the scuffle to secure him, was killed. No man lamented the sad event more than Nelson.

The troops lost,—killed, 6 rank and file ; wounded, 1 officer and 9 rank and file ; missing, 6 rank and file. The patriots had 10 or 12 killed.

Col. Wetherall was now halted at St. Hilaire, nine miles above St. Charles, with a brigade, consisting of four companies of the 1st Royals, a detachment of the 66th Regiment (another company of the Royals followed from Chambly), with two six-pounders, and a detachment of Volunteer Cavalry. It was doubtful if he would come further after the retreat of Col. Gore ; and indeed, from his report, his advance would appear another accident. Reports, coming from we know not where, informed us that the " Patriots " were armed in rear of Montreal, threatening the city, and that Chambly, St. John's, and all the country from thence to the lines, was in our hands. Disappointment soon followed. On Friday evening, an American arrived from St. Albans, to inform that Dr. Côté and the leaders of the county of Lacadie, with several of the prominent men from the Richelieu, from Montreal, and elsewhere, were there collecting munitions of war for invasion. Nelson and I thus found ourselves alone. Had our frontier friends staid at home, communication with the States would have been open for arms and munitions, which would assuredly have come in. The invasion from St. Albans was delayed too long. One day earlier it might have proved successful.

Friday, the 24th, was a beautiful day. A sharp frost made the roads good. Having more men than I could lodge in the camp, I proceeded with one hundred, and billeted them in farm-houses up the river; the advanced posts being at a small stream two miles up, where I directed the bridge to be destroyed and the passage disputed, and on a bank in rear, where I directed a barricade of fence rails to be erected. All were ordered to skirmish with any coming enemy by firing on the advance and falling back.

Still suffering from my old bruises, fitted for a hospital rather than for a camp, I had hardly got to sleep, about midnight, when I was awakened by a messenger from Desrivères at the barricade, to say he had made a good work and he wanted more men. I could hardly make a reply, when it appeared as if the whole picket was back in camp with a report that an enemy was upon us. It proved a false alarm, but only a portion returned to their posts. There was evidently a scare.

On the morning of Saturday, 25th, I inspected our forces; for, being collected from the neighboring parishes, their attendance was, somewhat irregular. There turned out in camp precisely one hundred and nine fire-locks, or, I should say, flint-locks, for many of them refused to fire, when essayed a few hours after. Just at this time, a man riding up delivered a letter from St. Mathias, opposite Chambly, informing me that Col. Wetherall had orders to fall back to Montreal, and was retreating. The after story was that Col. Wetherall did not retreat, because these people had stupidly stop the order from Sir John Colborne to that effect; and, moreover that I, who was eighteen miles distant, with Wetherall halfway between, was in command of them. Most of all, the man who was said to borne the order, told me in Montreal, seven years afterwards, that he was ready to make oath that he was not detained by my orders. He did not see me, but knew my voice! Such are the materials of history! Had Wetherall retreated, our weakness would have been undiscovered, and we should have remained masters of the south side of the St. Lawrence.

Anticipating no danger for the day, I set about improving our camp, and then rode down to the village, to make arrangements for grinding wheat. While consulting with Bunker, the hotel-keeper, at his door, a messenger rushed up to inform me that the troops were approaching; and, returning to the camp, I found that my pickets, already reduced to about twenty-five men, had all come back to bring the news. Putting myself at their head, I went up about two

miles to reconnoitre, and from a slight eminence, saw the whole brigade, in strength, beyond our means of opposition. Repeating my order to fire from behind the wood-piles that flanked the road, to delay their march, I returned to camp. My horse, making a sudden turn and jump, threw me, as weak as I was, over his head a good distance, on the rough, frozen road. The horse caught, I mounted, and proceeded. At another time, I should have required a hurdle for my removal; but, when the mind's energies are strong, the body is at best a mere incumbrance. Its sufferings are unheeded.

In the camp, or might be best called our enclosure, there were about eighty men, who bravely took their places behind the defences. There were more, I knew, in the village, one-third of a mile distant. They must be hurried up. Without an "aide", I must go myself, thinking the time abundant. The fields were covered with men, women, and children, flying before the troops, from their deserted houses, and the more terrified as smoke and flames shot up from barns set on fire.

The last many of my men had seen of me was hurrying from front to rear, as fast as my weak state would permit. Just as I was turning to get back to camp, a stout *habitant* breathless, in his shirt sleeves, came running from above, to tell me that he was sent by the English commander ("General Anglais") to say that if we were dispersed, nobody should be harmed. (This afterwards was corroborated by sworn testimony; and Col. Gagy, accompanying the troops, told me it was he who sent him). Supposing by this that Col. Wetherall was pressed by "Patriots" in the rear, and was hurrying to Sorel, I sought a fit person to carry back answer that if the troops laid down their arms, they would be allowed to proceed unmolested. This caused a few minutes delay; he had to run for a coat; and but for this incident that day would probably have been my last. I had reached the ravine, within one minute's ride from the camp, when one round-shot after the other buzzed past me down the road. Musketry was heard, and men falling back showed me their broken and useless arms. All appeared to be coming. My whole duty now was to endeavor to keep them together, and make face on a new front. Finding this was impossible,—for many would break for their homes, and that I remained unsupported,—my "occupation" at St Charles "gone", towards dusk, I joined Doctor Nelson at St Denis.

Wish such disparity of forces, the affair was soon over. Two six-pounder guns firing short and grape, and near four hundred muskets, made short work with the handful in our

camp ; but the manly courage of these Canadians was of the highest order, when they opened fire and stood their ground till thirty three were left dead ;—none wounded escaped. The names of all killed, which I have taken from the parish registers, do not quite equal this number.

The troops lost, by the return made, 1 sergeant and 2 rank and file killed ; 15 rank and file wounded. The Colonel's horse was shot dead. The horses of Major Ward and Captain David (cavalry) severely wounded. They did not advance below the camp till the next day, when they came into the village, and picked up a few villagers to be conducted to Montreal as prisoners.

The published reports announced a long, hard fought battle : I had fifteen hundred men, but ran away before the action commenced ; and three hundred were killed on our side. A subsequent "official" report reduced them to one hundred and twenty-five. The first exaggeration was about ten times,—the last four ; and this, I presume, is a fair specimen of the truthfulness of what we read of "battles" elsewhere. I was told the day following by some people near St. Denis, who did not know me, that the "general" had sold himself to the English, and run away to the States, with all the Patriot money.

It may well be asked what we expected to effect with such wretched preparations at St Charles ? I can only answer for myself, that, seeing the determined animation of the people, I thought the leaders would remain with them, and the raising of the "Patriot" flag at St. Charles, would be the signal for a general rising ; that men and arms would flow in from the States, as into Texas ; and that Sir John Colborne would evacuate Montreal for Quebec, leaving us all the country outside. Had there been the militia laws and military knowledge of to-day, this was easy. Then I thought we would in the winter send Commissioners to England, in mercantile phrase, "to make a settlement". Ours was simply a provincial war of factions. The "Bureaucrats" vanquished us, and the province had to wait a few years for a government based upon "the well-understood wishes of the people." Had we vanquished them, there would have been only a delay of a few months, with an immense saving to the British Government.

On Monday, the 27th, alarmed with a report that Col. Wetherall would attack St. Denis, the place was evacuated. Dr Nelson, the present Sir George E. Cartier, myself, and few others, passed the day seated very stupidly in a swamp, a few miles back from Richelieu. In the evening we learned

that Wetherall was on the march back to Montreal, and the next day we returned to St. Charles and St. Denis. I had considered Wetherall's success at St. Charles of little moment, —only a "Lexington;" and, if favored by the usual bad weather of the season, his command would be made prisoners before they recrossed the St. Lawrence. On the contrary, his success proved decisive.

We continued at St. Denis with a small armed party till 2nd December, when, on the second approach of Col. Gore, there was a second evacuation. Dr. Nelson, myself, and four others, passed over to St. Césaire in the night to take the woods. At the end of three days we got separated. I escaped after various vicissitudes, through the States; my companions were captured. The five hundred pounds reward offered for Nelson's apprehension was paid; the same sum offered for mine still remains in the treasury. Soon learning the determination of the American authorities, I took no part with the "sympathizers." Leaving for the South, in the autumn of 1838, I only heard of that year's attempt at invasion from the States, at Key West, after my return from Cuba. In Florida I remained till the spring 1844; when, hearing that a *nolle prosequi* had, unasked, been entered in my case, for what reason I never knew, I came back to Montreal, landing alone on the wharf; and, passing through the streets, shook hands cordially and indiscriminately with old acquaintances, friends or foes, as though I had merely returned from a long journey. Our angry passages of the past were all turned to jokes and good fellowship, and so they have continued. (\*)

THOMAS STORROW BROWN.

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\* I have the materials for a history of 1837, that, with the documents, would fill two volumes, which I may never have time to prepare for publication. That a record of many things, now in the lapse of time only known to myself, may be preserved, I have sent this article to the *Dominion Monthly*. It has been written off rapidly — the work of evenings and early mornings — in one week. — T. S. B.



# LES ÉVÊQUES DE QUÉBEC

## I.—MGR DE LAVAL

Mgr François de Laval de Montmorency, abbé de Montigny, est né à Montigny-sur-Avre, dans le Maine, le 30 avril 1623. Il était fils de Hugues de Laval de Montmorency, seigneur de Montigny. Il fit ses études chez les Jésuites à Laffèche, fut ordonné à Paris, le 23 septembre 1645. Le pape Alexandre VII ayant enlevé la Nouvelle-France de la juridiction de l'archevêque de Rouen, il fut nommé, le 5 juillet 1658, évêque de Pétrée, *in partibus infidelium* et vicaire apostolique de la Nouvelle-France. Il arriva à Québec le 16 juin 1659. Il repassa en France en 1662. Pendant son séjour à Paris, il érigea, le 26 mars 1663, le séminaire de Québec. Cette érection fut confirmée par des lettres-patentes du roi en avril de la même année. Le 11 mai 1666 il consacrait l'église paroissiale de Québec, qu'il avait placée sous le patronage de l'Immaculée-Conception. Le 1<sup>er</sup> octobre 1674, le diocèse de Québec était érigé par le pape Clément X, et par la même bulle Mgr de Laval était nommé évêque du nouveau diocèse. Le diocèse de Québec comprenait alors le Canada, l'Acadie, les îles adjacentes, la Baie d'Hudson, Terre-Neuve et la Louisiane. Mgr de Laval se démit de l'évêché de Québec le 24 janvier 1688. Son successeur fut Mgr de Saint-Vallier. Il eut plusieurs démêlés avec les gouverneurs de son temps au sujet de la traite de l'eau-de-vie et de la préséance. Il est mort à Québec le 6 mai 1708, à l'âge de quatre-vingt-cinq ans et six jours. Il fut déclaré Vénérable en 1890.

## II.—MGR DE SAINT-VALLIER

Mgr Jean-Baptiste de Lacroix-Chevrières de Saint-Vallier est né à Grenoble, en Dauphiné, le 14 novembre 1653. Il arriva au Canada le 30 juillet 1685, en qualité de vicaire général de Mgr de Laval. Il fut sacré évêque de Québec le 25 janvier 1688, à Paris. Il revint au Canada le 15 août 1688. Il est le fondateur de l'Hôpital-Général de Québec (1693), et des Ursulines des Trois-Rivières (1697). C'est sous son épiscopat que l'érection de l'évêché de Québec fut confirmée par Louis XIV. Il est décédé à l'Hôpital-Général de Québec où il fut inhumé, le 22 décembre 1727, à l'âge de soixante-quatorze ans, un mois et douze jours (1).

(1) Pour de plus amples détails sur la vie et les œuvres de ces deux prélats, consultez *Les Evêques de Québec*, par Mgr H. Têtu, 1 vol. in-8, avec portraits.





*Francois euesque de quebec*

I. — MGR DE LAVAL

(Voir notice, page 56)

## CHRONICLE AND COMMENT :

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**WOLFE'S DEATH.**—Some twenty years ago an American newspaper offered a premium for the best epitaph on General Wolfe's death. Amongst others, he received the following curious stanza :

He marched without dread or fears  
At the head of his noble grenadiers ;  
And what was miraculous may, very particular,  
He climbed up rocks that were perpendicular.

**MONTCALM'S RAZORS.**—" Mrs. Helen S. Peck Harding, a resident of Phelps, Ontario County, New York, has in her possession the razors used by General Montcalm and found in his baggage. The handles are of ivory, and the blades, three in number, of extremely fine steel, are so arranged as to fasten in a steel grooved back when in use."—*Magazine of American History*, vol. I, p. 760.

**CANADIAN TRADE WITH CHINA.**—Quebec papers announce the arrival of two vessels direct from China, with 19,000 chests of tea on board. They are the first ship that ever entered the St. Lawrence from Asia, and their arrival forms a new era in the commercial history of the colony.—*Gentleman's Magazine*, August, 1825.

**AMERICAN BOOK-LORE.**—The first number of this new bibliographical magazine has been issued. It contains some very interesting articles, one by our Canadian historian, Mr. Benjamin Sulte on *Canada's History, Sources of Information*. The *American Book-Lore* will be published quarterly, and will comprise from sixteen to forty-eight pages, according to the amount of material available for publication. Subscriptions can be secured from the editor, Mr. Henry E. Legler, 426, Bradford street, Milwaukee, Wis., at \$1.00 per annum.

**BRITISH COPYRIGHT.**—Mr. Richard T. Lancefield, librarian of the Hamilton Public Library, suggests that a protest be entered against certain clauses of Lord Herschell's new copyright bill, on the ground that it will affect Canadian interests.

**INTERESTING MANUSCRIPTS.**—The literary world will be interested in the disclosure of a collection of old manuscripts—now in the possession of Mr. Robert C. McKelly, of Upper Sandusky, O.—which, I am informed, the Ohio Historical Society is anxious to secure in order that the manuscripts may be preserved intact. There are upwards of one hundred manuscripts in the collection. There is scarcely an American author of contemporary interest during the forties who is not represented by one or more manuscripts. . . —*The Bookman*.

## BIBLIOGRAPHIE

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LE PERE LEFEBVRE ET L'ACADIE, par Pascal Poirier. Troisième édition. *Montréal, C.-O. Beauchemin & Fils*, 1898. In-8, 311 p., portrait et gravures.

Cette belle biographie du P. Lefebvre, que M. le sénateur Poirier vient de publier, devra certainement recevoir un bon accueil de tous les Canadiens, et, à plus forte raison, de ses compatriotes les Acadiens.

M. Poirier nous raconte, dans ce livre au style simple et cependant correct, la vie intime du fondateur du premier collège français des provinces maritimes, le collège de Memramcook.

“ La fondation du collège de Memramcook, dit-il, a été pour les Acadiens un recommencement de vie nationale ”. Ce collège a fait un bien immense, et si nous comptons aujourd'hui une foule d'Acadiens instruits, qui font honneur à notre race, nous le devons en grande partie à l'initiative du P. Lefebvre.

Nous recommandons tout particulièrement cet ouvrage à nos lecteurs, et nous espérons qu'ils se feront tous un plaisir de s'en procurer un exemplaire, d'autant plus que les profits qui seront réalisés de la vente seront appliqués à l'érection d'un monument en l'honneur du P. Lefebvre.

DU TONKIN AU HAVRE. Chine, Japon, Iles Hawaii, Amérique, par Jean d'Albrey. *Paris, Plon, Nourrit et Cie*, 1898.

Tel est le titre d'un très intéressant voyage dont M. Jean d'Albrey, ancien élève de l'École polytechnique, nous raconte les impressions et les péripéties dans un agréable volume qui vient de paraître à la librairie Plon. L'auteur a passé par Hong-Kong, Canton, Macao, l'empire du Soleil levant, les îles Hawaii, la Californie, la Louisiane, Washington, New-York, Niagara, et, sur chacune de ces contrées si diverses, il rapporte des observations neuves, précises, et de curieux renseignements.

HISTOIRE DE LA VÉNÉRABLE MARIE DE L'INCARNATION, première supérieure du monastère des Ursulines de Québec, d'après Dom Claude Martin, son fils... par l'abbé Léon Chabot... *Paris, Ch. Poussielgue*, 1892. 2 vol. in-8, portraits.

Nous signalons cet ouvrage à nos lecteurs comme une des meilleures biographies de la Mère de l'Incarnation.

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- SELECTIONS FROM THE PROSE AND POETRY OF WALT WHITMAN. Edited with an Introduction by Oscar Lovell Triggs. *Boston, Small, Maynard & Company*, 1898. 8vo., cloth, gilt top, XLIII-257 p., portrait.

## PUBLICATIONS DIVERSES

RÉPERTOIRE ANNUAIRE GÉNÉRAL des Collectionneurs de la France et de l'Étranger, fondé par Ris-Paquot et continué par E. Renart. Avec des notices par Ris-Paquot et P. Endel, 1895-1896. *Paris, A la Librairie Centrale des Beaux-Arts*, s. d. gr. in-8, reliure souple, XVI-926 p.

Ce second volume du *Répertoire* a été salué avec plaisir par tous les collectionneurs : collectionneurs de livres, autographes, tableaux, ex-libris, timbres, monnaies, etc. Il sera de la plus grande utilité à tous ceux qui veulent étendre leurs relations d'échanges ou de ventes. Le Canada est représenté par un très petit nombre de collectionneurs ; mais les éditeurs se sont assurés les services d'un collaborateur dans notre pays pour les nouvelles éditions qu'ils entendent publier.

ETYMOLOGIE DE QUATRE CENTS PRENOMS usités en France. par Emile Ferrière. *Paris, Félix Alcan*, 1898. In-16, 165 p.

IN THIS OUR WORLD, by Charlotte Perkins Stetson. *Boston, Small, Maynard & Company*. 16mo., cloth, gilt top, XIII. 217 p., portrait.

LE NEZ DE FLAIRDECOIN, par Jean Drault. Paris, Henri Gautier, s. d. In-12, 314 p., 120 vignettes.

Jean Drault est un des rares écrivains humoristiques dont les œuvres peuvent être laissées entre n'importe quelles mains. Il a de l'entrain, de l'esprit, autant que les humoristes pornographiques, avec cela que ses romans sont tout à fait irréprochables sous le rapport de la morale. Si vous voulez rire un brin, et chasser le diable-bleu, nous vous conseillons la lecture des romans de Jean Drault, et surtout du *Nez de Flairdecoin*.

SPIRITUALISME ET SPIRITISME, par le docteur George Surbled. Préface de Mgr Elie Méric. Paris, P. Téqui, 1898. In-12, X-271 p.

La question du *spiritualisme* est d'actualité et domine de haut toutes les discussions. C'est pourquoi M. le docteur Surbled, bien connu par ses travaux de psycho-physiologie, a fait une œuvre opportune en lui consacrant tout un livre.

Une remarquable lettre de Mgr Méric précède et recommande l'ouvrage du docteur Surbled. L'éminent professeur de Sorbonne remarque avec l'auteur l'éclatant triomphe du spiritualisme, et la curiosité de l'invisible, cette soif de l'autre vie, qui tourmente les consciences contemporaines. Heureux présage d'un retour aux saines doctrines que les œuvres comme celles du docteur Surbled ne peuvent que préparer et assurer !—DOCTEUR CHRÉTIEN.

MANUEL THEORIQUE ET PRATIQUE D'HORTICULTURE, par un Religieux jardinier. Paris, P. Téqui, 1898. In-12, 701 p., vignettes.

Je suis tout heureux de présenter à ceux de nos lecteurs qui s'occupent d'horticulture et de jardinage, soit par profession, soit par agrément, un excellent livre, digne de toute leur attention.

Ils y trouveront une foule de choses intéressantes : des notions exactes, bien données sur la botanique, la géologie, les amendements et les engrais, la culture du jardin potager, un cours élémentaire d'arboriculture fruitière, un extrait de travaux à faire chaque mois de l'année et des renseignements utiles pour la conservation des fruits. Cette nouvelle édition, d'un ouvrage d'une réelle valeur, a été augmentée d'un traité complet sur les plantes florales de plein air.

Nous recommandons, nous conseillons à nos amis d'acheter, d'étudier ce manuel de notre "jardinier". Ce modeste anonyme, a, pendant vingt-cinq ans, enseigné et pratiqué l'horticulture, il en raisonne en homme du métier, sans aucune apparence de prétention. Son livre d'aspect attrayant est parfaitement clair, complet, bien compris et contient tout ce qu'il . Un petit atlas de planches gravées donne, en.

une quarantaine de dessins, tout ce qui peut compléter le texte : éléments de botanique, greffe et taille des arbres.

La seule lecture du volume donne l'envie d'avoir un petit jardinet et il enseignera tout ce qu'il faut tirer de ce jardin agrément et profit.—CHARLES DUBOIS.

LES ÉLÉMENTS DU LATIN DE L'ÉGLISE, traduits et adaptés par Adolphe Sevin. *Bruges, Desclée, Be Brouwer & Cie*, 1898. In-12, 122 p.

VOYAGE AU PAYS DES FJORDS, par Antoine Sallès. *Paris, Plon, Nourrit et Cie*, 1898. In-12. IV 304 p., carte et gravures.

La Suède et la Norvège sont à la mode. Les productions littéraires, les romans, les pièces de théâtre, les œuvres picturales et musicales des pays scandinaves sont plus goûtés que jamais. C'est un monde nouveau qui s'est ouvert à notre curiosité avec Ibsen, avec Grieg, avec Normann, etc. Mais si nous aimons les écrivains et les artistes, nous ignorons trop le pays, pourtant si original, si pittoresque, d'une si étrange beauté. M. Antoine Sallès répare cette lacune. Il publie aujourd'hui un *voyage* descriptif très complet et très précis : *Au pays des Fjords*. Une carte et de nombreuses phototypies illustrent ce livre, qui nous fait connaître, avec une admirable exactitude, les merveilles de la nature du Nord.

VILLORÉ, Snobs de Province, par Henry Gréville. *Paris, Plon, Nourrit et Cie* (1898). In-12, 276 p.

WORD FOR WORD AND LETTER FOR LETTER. A Biographical Romance by A. J. Drexel Biddle, illustrated by Edward Holloway. *London, Gay & Bird*, 1898. 12mo., cloth, 207 p., ill.

A PROPOS D'EUSAPIA PALADINO. Les Séances de Montfort-l'Amaury, par Guillaume de Fontenay. *Paris, Société d'Éditions Scientifiques*, 1898. In-8, XXX-288 p., ill.

Après avoir été expérimentée à Naples, sa patrie, puis à Rome, à Varsovie, à l'île Roubaud (chez le Dr Richet), à l'Agnélas (chez le Colonel de Rochas), à Cambridge, à Milan, etc, etc. EUSAPIA PALADINO est venue, en juillet dernier, passer trois jours à Montfort l'Amaury, chez M. Blech où elle a été de nouveau étudiée par le Colonel de Rochas, M. Flammarion, M. de Fontenay, et photographié—ainsi que les phénomènes de lévitation qu'elle occasionne—par ce dernier observateur.

C'est le compte rendu authentique des trois journées (compte rendu certifié exact par tous les témoins) ; ce sont les photographies obtenues pendant ces curieuses expériences que nous présentons aujourd'hui au public.

Ces observations ayant en outre amené M. de Fontenay à admettre une très curieuse disjonction dans les propriétés physiques des formes animées qui se condensent autour du médium : (les unes visibles sans consistance, d'autres consis-

tantes sans visibilité, ce qui est beaucoup plus extraordinaire) ; l'auteur a, dans une troisième partie consacrée aux commentaires, étudié avec un peu plus de détails par quelles hypothèses on pourrait faire rentrer ces phénomènes étranges dans le cadre des lois naturelles présentement admises.

TRAITÉ EXPÉRIMENTAL DE MAGNÉTISME. Vol. I, Théories et procédés, par H. Durville. Paris, Librairie du Magnétisme, 1898. In-18, toile, 360 p.

Cet ouvrage, annoncé depuis plusieurs années, est attendu avec impatience par tous les étudiants du Magnétisme. Il comprendra deux volumes. Le premier, qui vient de paraître, sous un élégant cartonnage, expose la théorie des principaux Maîtres de l'art magnétique depuis trois siècles. Leur théorie est fidèlement analysée, leurs procédés sont minutieusement décrits et de longues citations de chacun d'eux sont reproduites.

Si ce volume ne suffit pas entièrement à ceux qui veulent étudier à fond la théorie et la pratique du Magnétisme, il suffit amplement à tous les amateurs voulant acquérir les connaissances nécessaires pour pratiquer avec succès le magnétisme curatif au foyer domestique. Dans tous les cas, on a là l'exemple des Maîtres vénérés de l'art magnétique et une connaissance suffisamment étendue des procédés et moyens divers qu'ils ont mis en pratique.

Les *Théories et Procédés* constituent certainement l'ouvrage le plus simple, le plus pratique, le plus complet qui ait été publié jusqu'à ce jour sur l'ensemble de la doctrine du magnétique. Des portraits avec notes biographiques et bibliographiques, ainsi que des figures intercalées dans le texte facilitent et complètent encore l'intelligence du texte.

LE DROIT DE PROPRIÉTÉ DE L'ÉGLISE. Thèse de Doctorat en droit canonique, par M. l'abbé Henri Buvée. Lyon, Emmanuel Vitte, 1897. In-8, 191 p.

LA SACRA BIBBIA secondo la Volgata. Tradotta in lingua Italiana ed annotata da Monsignor Antonio Martini. Mondovi, B. Graziano, 1897-1898. 5 vol. in-12. XXXII-750, 864, 674, 756, 916 p.



## PETIT INTERMEDIAIRE

### QUESTIONS

78. Quelle est l'origine du nom des deux routes qui conduisent à Lorette : la route de la *Misère* et la route de *Suède* ou de la *Suette*?—UNE BICYCLISTE.

79. In what year did William Grant (afterwards Sir William Grant, M. R.) retired from office of Attorney-General of Quebec?—W. GEO. E.

80. Dans quel ouvrage trouve-t-on la première description des Chutes de Niagara?—BUFFALO.

81. Can any of the readers of the *Courrier du Livre* inform me why the name of Blue Noses was given to the inhabitants of *Nova Scotia*.—A NOVA SCOTIAN.

82. Quel est le premier almanach publié en Amérique?—COLLECTIONNEUR.

83. Quelle est la signification du mot : Monongahéla?—CURIEUX.

84. Quelle est la première banque de l'Amérique?—BANQUIER.

85. Will some of your New England readers please inform me what herb was referred to in the following extract from a letter dated *Barnstable*, Feb. 19th, 1768 : " A few Days past a number of our Barnstable Ladies paid me a Visit—dress'd all in Homespun, even to their Handkerchiefs and Gloves, and not so much as a Rebband on their head : They were entertain'd with Labradore Tea—all innocently cheerful and merry. In order to recommend themselves, as the Ladies had gone in some other Places, towards night we had the Company of some of the chief Gentlemen of the Town, who all drank Labradore Tea." *Barnstable* is no doubt intended for *Barnstable*. What was the Labrador tea referred to?—MASSACHUSETTS.

### RÉPONSES

ÉGLISE DU CANADA.—(67, vol. II, p. 369 et vol. III, p. 29).—Les Récollets s'étaient adressés directement au Pape, pour obtenir la juridiction spirituelle en Canada (Nouvelle-France). Le Pape la leur fit donner *verbalemment* par son nonce à Paris. Voir Sagard, *Histoire du Canada*, t. I, p. 28, édition de Tross. Les PP. Jésuites, en 1632, durent recevoir la juridiction de leur supérieure, en vertu d'une bulle d'Urbain



VIII, adressée au Général, le 17 septembre 1629. Voir Rochemonteix, *Les Jésuites dans la Nouvelle-France*, t. 2, p. 190.

\*\*\* L'intermédiaire qui a demandé des renseignements sur l'Église du Canada, trouvera des détails qui l'intéresseront dans l'étude de M. l'abbé H.-A. Verreau, vol. II des *Mémoires de la Société Royale*.—R. R.

UN MANUSCRIT DE S. EM. LE CARDINAL TASCHEREAU. — (74, vol. III, p. 28). — Son Em. le cardinal Taschereau ne laisse pas autre chose, que je sache, qu'une histoire manuscrite et intime du Séminaire de Québec, de son origine à nos jours. Ce manuscrit ne sera jamais publié. On en a fait une copie pour le Séminaire des Missions-Etrangères, à Paris. Une autre copie a été faite, à l'insu des autorités du Séminaire, et vendue à la Bibliothèque du Parlement, à Ottawa ; mais cette copie a été remise, à la demande du Séminaire, et le prix de vente remboursé. Je tiens ce renseignement d'une personne qui s'y connaît.—R. R.

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### DESIDERATA

#### **Cy. Tessier, Québec**

Canadian Magazine and Literary Repository. Nos. 6, 15, 16, 18, 21 and 22.

L'Observateur. Nos 23 et 26 du vol. III.

L'Abeille Canadienne. Nos du 1er Nov. 1818 et 15 jan. 1819.

Magasin de Québec. Nos de fév. et oct. 1793 et mai 1794.

The Canadian Review and Literary and Historical Journal, publié à Montréal en 1824, 25, 26.

#### **Raoul Renault, Québec**

Smithsonian Reports for 1860, 1862, 1865, and vols. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Magazine of American History, vol. XX, (July, December, 1888), and vol. XXIX and following.

Christie. Hist. of Canada. Vol. 4, 2nd edition.

Langeviu. Notes sur les archives de Beauport. Vol. II.

Le Courrier du Livre, Nos 1, 2, 3 et 16.

Canadian Antiquarian. First series : vol. XIII, Nos. 3 and 4.  
New series : vol. 2, No. 1 ; vol. 3, Nos. 3 and 4.

## Desirable and Scarce Books

**HAWKIN'S PICTURE OF QUEBEC;** with historical recollections. *Quebec: Printed for the Proprietor, by Neilson & Cowan, 1834, sm. 8vo., New and elegant binding.* \$20.00

This little book, complete and in good condition is very scarce. One rather imperfect copy sold lately at auction for \$12.00. Mr. Montpetit sold his copy \$30.00. It is a book of real historical value.

**GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.** A complete collection of the reports of all the different departments of the Canadian Federal Government, including the Debates, and reports of all commissions since the Confederation (1867) up to 1892. *Price and list upon application.*

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Very important and scarce. Contains historical information not to be had elsewhere. Had several distinguished contributors.

**EDITS,** ordonnances royaux, déclarations et arrêts du Conseil d'Etat du roi, concernant le Canada. *Quebec, 1854-56. 3 vol. gr. in-8.* \$10.00

These three volumes contain the documentary history of Canada, and they must be on the shelves of every good Canadian library. They are scarce.

**PROVINCIAL STATUTES** of Lower Canada. *Quebec, 1795-1805. 4 vol. 4to., boards.* \$15.00

The first 4 volumes of the Provincial Statutes of Lower Canada. I have also a duplicate copy of vol. I, price \$5.00.

**RABELAIS.** Œuvres de Maître François Rabelais, publiés sous le titre de Faits et Dits du géant Gargantua et de son fils Pantagruel, avec la Prognostication pantagruélique, l'Épître du Limousin, la Crème philosophale et deux Épitres à deux vieilles de mœurs et d'humeurs différentes. Nouvelle édition où l'on a ajouté les Remarques historiques et critiques, sur tout l'ouvrage; le vrai Portrait de Rabelais; la carte du Chinonnois; le dessin de la Cave peinte; et les différentes vues de la Devinière, Métairie de l'Auteur. *A Amsterdam, chez Henri Bordesius, 1711. 6 tomes en 4 vol. in-12, pleine reliure veau ancien, en bel état.* \$50.00

Cette édition de Rabelais était cataloguée, en juin 1895, par le libraire Rondeau, de Paris, sous le No. 2105, à 450 francs, soit \$90.00.

**GERMANY, &c.** A Geographical, Historical, and Political Description of the Empire of **Germany, Holland, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Prussia, Italy, Sicily, Corsica, and Sardinia;** with a Gazetteer of Reference to the principal places in those countries. Translated from the German. To which is added Statistical Tables, etc. Illustrated with 24 plates and a large three-sheet map. *London: John Stockdale, 1800. 4to, half sheep.* \$10.00

A very good copy with all the plates.

**LE HISTORIE** e fatti de Veronesi nelli tempi d'il populo et Signori Scaligeri per l'Excellentis. doct. de le Leggi Messer Torello Sarayna Veronese. *Stampate in Verona, Per Antonio Portese. MDLXXI. Sm. 4to., sheep, 54 double pages. In good order.* \$12.00

**CANADIAN INCUNABULA.** A Complete Index to the Ordinances and Statutes of Lower Canada, to the 57th year of George the Third, inclusive. *Quebec. 1817. 8vo., full calf.* \$5.00

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