

would murder Some of them In a Verey Short time. we hearing Such a Confus^d Noise upon Deck and Suspected this was on purpose to Deceive us as we had been so long acquainted with their Subtilty.

They arrived at Louisburg on the 14th of August. The *Journal* is carefully edited, and as a contribution to the history of the Five Years' War, it furnishes a chapter of rare value and interest, and marks an event of no common literary importance.

GEORGE STEWART.

Acadia: Missing Links of a Lost Chapter in American History.

By an Acadian (EDOUARD RICHARD), ex-member of the House of Commons of Canada. (New York: Home Book Company, 45 Vesey Street. Two vols., pp. 392, 384.)

WHEN Parkman first treated the Acadian question twelve years ago, his mind was in a state of reaction against the sentimental view of the deportation which Longfellow had embodied in *Evangeline*. The Carlylian admiration of what was strong, even though also cruel and relentless, was much in vogue, and Parkman's narrative of the Acadian tragedy is quite in Carlyle's spirit. To him the Acadians appeared to have met a fate, stern but, on the whole, deserved. Nearly ten years later in *A Half Century of Conflict* he quietly retracted something; but both narratives are as gall and wormwood to those who understand the Acadian side of the question.

It was not long before answers to *Montcalm and Wolfe* began to appear. The Abbé Casgrain published in 1887 his *Pèlerinage au Pays d'Evangeline*—a strong book marred by an absurd title—and M. Rameau de Saint-Père, a French gentleman of means who has devoted forty years to the study of the history of the Acadians, re-published in 1889 his *Colonie Féodale en Amérique*, a work of less merit than Casgrain's, but showing great industry. These two books embody the French and Acadian view of the deportation. Neither of them has been translated, and there was distinctly room for a work in English which should be an answer to Parkman. This Mr. Richard now offers.

In collecting materials to answer Parkman, the Abbé Casgrain found much that was new. The principal source of information on the Acadian question had been hitherto the volume of *Nova Scotia Archives*, published by the government of that province in 1869, under the editorial care of Dr. Thomas B. Akins. Casgrain searched with great industry at London and Paris. He unearthed also important documents hitherto buried in the archives of the Seminary at Quebec, which was closely associated with the Acadian missionaries, and, to complete his preparation, he visited the settlements of the dispersed Acadians which continue to this day not only in Canada, but also in France and the United States. His zeal was rewarded by his being able to show that the Acadians were the innocent victims of both English and French cruelty, and that their sufferings were enormously greater than had hitherto been supposed. This view of the

question was accompanied by the charge that Parkman had wilfully closed his eyes to evidence lying before him, and that Dr. Akins, the compiler of the volume of *Archives*, had designedly omitted documents favorable to the Acadians. The defence of Dr. Akins, a gentleman highly respected, was that he had published what he had found at Halifax, and that he had never been in Europe to make researches. His agents, however, had reported in regard to the archives there, and it is hard to resist the conclusion that he was either imposed upon by others or misled by his own prejudices. Parkman made partial amends in his later volume, and when the smoke of the controversy has blown away it will be reasonably clear that Casgrain's view is substantially correct.

One says Casgrain's view, because Mr. Richard, though his work is more copious, has brought to light no new records, and adds little to the discussion. He is an Acadian by descent, and gives some pathetic instances of the sufferings which his own ancestors endured (II. 120, 212, 255 *n.*). In most cases the members of families were separated from each other and reunion was often impossible. These painful memories still linger in Acadian homes, and from childhood Mr. Richard has brooded over the harrowing tale. This explains and excuses much that he writes. He claims to have thought more intensely on the question than any one else (I. 186), but this, instead of an advantage, may be a disqualification for writing calm history. He is unfair to nearly every one concerned in the deportation. Lawrence, the English governor of Nova Scotia, who is responsible for it, was cruel and relentless enough, but Mr. Richard's language is too strong. Lawrence is "totally devoid of moral sense and utterly heartless" (I. 342), "a scoundrel" (II. 22), "an odious despot" (II. 38), deaf to mercy "like the wolf, like the cat," and, finally, "his soul leers . . . in all its naked hideousness" (II. 60). Mr. Richard labors hard to show that Lawrence deported the Acadians solely that he might grow rich by seizing their property. Vague contemporary charges are indeed made, but the *Canadian Archives Report* for 1894 shows clearly that there was at Halifax a general fear of the French sympathies of the Acadians when war with France was imminent. This of course does not justify, but it explains the deportation.

Mr. Richard's language regarding Dr. Akins is equally unmeasured, and he goes so far as to reproach him for omitting documents of whose existence we have no knowledge (I. 194). Parkman, however, is his especial victim. The Puritan historian is "superficial and dishonest" (II. 159), "a cheat" and a "literary malefactor" (II. 190). When Mr. Richard says that Parkman "has reduced historical trickery to a fine art" (II. 159), one only wishes that a few more could learn the trick; and when he says that he "is never accurate" (II. 162), we are not listening to the language of sober reason. Parkman has obvious faults, but a French-Canadian should be grateful to the scholar who first taught the English-speaking world that New France has a history.

Mr. Richard's criticism of Parkman invites inquiry into his own

method. He has an acute mind and a liberal spirit, when his prejudices are not aroused, but little narrative power. Keen as is his interest in the subject, he has not prepared himself adequately for his task. It is amazing to find that a historian of the deportation has not read Winslow's *Journal* (II. 114), which contains the only detailed contemporary narrative, and is easily accessible in the publications of the Nova Scotia Historical Society. Mr. Richard quotes Casgrain frequently, but, in other places, copies him almost *verbatim* without acknowledgment (cf., *e.g.*, II. 242 with Casgrain's *Pèlerinage*, Paris edition, 1890, pp. 155, 156). He has not yet learned the sound method that Parkman knew so well, of giving precisely the book or document which is used as authority. It is exasperating to have "an historian" quoted (II. 310) without knowing who, and to have an admittedly imaginary letter printed as if real (I. 124). If the author had revised his book, cut out all repetition, all the imaginary mental operations of his characters, and all vituperation, he would have reduced its bulk by one half, and, at the same time, have made it more effective. Even as it stands, it is noteworthy, and ought forever to silence the flippant plea that the sufferings of the Acadians were light and well-deserved.

GEORGE M. WRONG.

The United States of America, 1765-1865. By EDWARD CHANNING, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History in Harvard University. (New York: Macmillan and Co. 1896. Pp. ix, 352.)

THIS volume is the fourth in "The Cambridge Historical Series." It covers the political history of the United States from the passage of the Stamp Act to the surrender at Appomattox. The author has sought to tell his story simply and yet to give the most important results of modern research. He has not tried to air any new ideas or theories, or to go out into the byways in search of strange facts, but only to relate in a plain, straightforward fashion the main historical events of a century. The preface modestly puts aside any claim of originality, and frankly acknowledges dependence on the larger and more trustworthy of the secondary histories in writing a considerable portion of the volume. It is plain enough, however, that he has written with great judgment, and used both original and secondary material with the trained discernment of the scholar; while the very effort to keep within beaten paths and not to run far afield in search of needless scraps of learning has made the book sane and sensible and suited to the needs of the readers for whom it is meant. The narrative is unadorned, but the tale is well told, and its parts are well balanced.

To the special student of American history, perhaps also to the average reader, the first chapter is of the utmost value; so valuable is it that the book would have merit were the succeeding pages of little worth. In this chapter, which treats of the industrial and social life of the colonies in the