

Germany with the latter, on his second trip, is a still more interesting character. The first minister ordained in Pennsylvania (the rite was that of the Swedish Church, and the place was the now venerable Gloria Dei Church, in 1703), his gifts as a hymn-writer, and his long pastorate in New York, have hitherto attracted more attention to him than to his brother.

The author supports his positions with an extraordinary amount of evidence, which the application of photography to engraving has rendered accessible. The material is grouped into two sections, the first dealing with the history of the colony, and the second with the biography of some of its members. Philadelphians will be interested in the care Mr. Sachse has taken to identify the localities connected with this romantic episode in the early history of their city, and to trace every point of its connection with local history. The author does not write from the standpoint of the pure antiquarian, but of one who knows how to prize present surroundings because of their historical associations. The book is gracefully written, with the glow of feeling that may be expected wherever the investigator takes a deep interest in his subject. Our only criticism is that a somewhat different grouping of the material would add greatly to the popularity of the book; but this is a matter of minor importance.

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*The Province of Quebec and the Early American Revolution.* By VICTOR COFFIN, Ph. D., Assistant Professor of European History in the University of Wisconsin. [Bulletin of the University of Wisconsin—History Series, I. 3.] (Madison: Published by the University. 1896. Pp. xvii, 275-562.)

THE imperial act of Great Britain, known as the Quebec Act of 1774, has always commanded the attention of the historical student. Dr. Coffin has given us a monograph of some length examining its origin, cause and influences. His work is one of labor and research and he sustains his views by authorities drawn from the Canadian archives at Ottawa.

After the conquest of Canada it became necessary to establish some form of government to preserve order. The articles of final capitulation were signed on the 8th of September, 1760. It is at this date that Dr. Coffin commences his history.

The first act of the British government was the royal proclamation of the 7th of October of this year, establishing the limits of Canada in connection with those of the governments of East and West Florida and Grenada. This topographical description was given in so clumsy a manner as to be unintelligible; it must suffice to say that it excluded the greater part of the present province of Ontario. In the same bungling spirit, it was declared that in these several colonies respectively, so soon as their state and circumstances would admit, general assemblies . . . in such manner and form . . . as in the colonies and provinces of America, would be summoned.

This stipulation was not fulfilled until 1791, on the passage of the act which divided this province into Upper and Lower Canada, each with its legislature. Hence it was the constant object of demand on the part of the limited population of old subjects who had found their way northerly. Dr. Coffin assails the well-known dispatch of Murray, of the 20th of August, 1766, in which he describes these old subjects as a set of adventurers. Dr. Coffin represents them as imbued with a certain degree of the American spirit, and determined to lose no opportunity of pressing their claims for the establishment of English law and an assembly (p. 398).

The Quebec Act was passed on the 7th of October, 1774, and it attracted great attention in the old provinces, for it became law in the crisis of the American Revolution. The governors of Canada up to this date were Murray and Carleton; to the high qualities of both Dr. Coffin does full justice; he, however, shows a disposition to believe in the justice of the complaint of Murray's arrogance, but recognizes the higher qualities of Carleton. Murray was recalled in 1766. Carleton remained in office until 1778, for four years after the passage of the Quebec Act.

Dr. Coffin describes the conditions of Canada from the conquest onwards. In his view too much consideration was shown the seigniors; the *habitants* he regards as desiring nothing more in regard to religion than the measures necessary for the enjoyment of its voluntary features, and he believes that they were already distinctly opposed to its legal establishment with compulsory powers (p. 285). There were at this date about 65,000 French Canadian Roman Catholics; the lists of the Protestants obtained by Murray scarcely reached 200. The grand jury of Quebec in 1764 presented that as there was no house of assembly the grand jury was the one body representing the people, that it should be consulted in the passage of laws, and that the public accounts should be laid before that body twice a year. There was one claim which was only partially signed, complaining that persons professing the religion of Rome and recognizing the supremacy of the pope should be sworn as jurors, in open violation of our most sacred laws and liberty and tending to the entire subversion of the Protestant religion. We have in these simple facts the justification that may be offered for the provisions of the Quebec Act framed on the theory that the creation of a house of assembly was not expedient.

It must be conceded that an enactment was necessary to define the boundaries of Canada and the system of government which it was indispensable to establish. Dr. Coffin tells us that closer investigation will show that the disastrous influence of the measure was as great in affecting the mind of the old British provinces as the more direct attacks on colonial institutions then experienced, and that it was natural to regard the act in connection with the coercive measures then being enacted. Far from being surprised at the strong feeling of indignation entertained by the Revolutionary fathers, his wonder has been aroused at finding their suspicions to be so utterly without foundation (p. 529). All the important provisions of the act had been decided previous to 1770. In

1763 the action taken with regard to the western lands was a re-affirmation of what had been proposed in 1756. The peace negotiations had included Canada with all its dependencies. In 1763 it was suggested that the western territory should be governed by the commander-in-chief, and the proposal to place it under the control of Canada was rejected as giving to the province an undue advantage in the fur trade. It was only from the feeling of the impossibility of any other arrangement that the western territory was finally assigned to Canada, and not from any hostility to the southern provinces.

The protest of Congress against the encouragement of the Roman Catholic religion by permitting the priests to hold, receive and enjoy the accustomed dues and rights, and against the recognition of French civil law by which the existence of a French Canadian province was assured, are matters of history. On this point Dr. Coffin speaks very strongly. He urges that it was the duty of Great Britain to start the province as an English, not as a French community, and that the act which determined the ecclesiastical condition and the civil code handed Canada over to a French Canadian population.

Dr. Coffin assigns to this feeling the abandonment by the United Empire Loyalists of Lower Canada. No such unfortunate exodus was contemplated in 1774, and when it took place climatical conditions had much to do in influencing the choice of the new home. Dr. Coffin summarizes his view of this matter in the sentence that it is not an extreme view to regard the great difficulties that beset English rule in Canada and the grave problems that confront the Dominion as a natural and logical development of the policy of the Quebec Act (p. 540).

Although we are by no means certain that Dr. Coffin's views will obtain universal recognition, it is but an act of duty to do justice to his industry and research in placing the question so fully and ably before the historical student. He has himself afforded the means of fairly considering his theories, and his work is really indispensable to any one who desires to master this somewhat difficult question. It should certainly obtain attention, especially in Canada, for it throws light on much affecting the modern politics of the Dominion.

*The Writings of John Dickinson.* Vol. I. Political Writings, 1764-1774. Edited by PAUL LEICESTER FORD. (Philadelphia: The Historical Society of Pennsylvania. 1896. Pp. xxii, 501.)

THIS, Vol. II. of the *Life and Writings of John Dickinson*, and Vol. XIV. of the *Memoirs* of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, had the way prepared by the preceding volume of the series, *The Life and Times of John Dickinson, 1732-1808*, by Charles J. Stillé, LL. D., published by the same society in 1891. In that able and scholarly work Dr. Stillé gave the first adequate presentation of the personality of John Dickinson and of his influence upon the men and events of his day. Mr. Ford, with his accustomed patience and industry, aided by his wide knowledge