

TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

THE history of New France, by Father Charlevoix, is too well known and too highly esteemed both for style and matter to need any explanation of its scope or object here. The praise of Gibbon will alone assure the English reader that as an historical work it is of no inconsiderable merit.

It is, however, strange that while nearly all the other works of the French historian can be found in our language, no attempt has hitherto been made to present to English readers the history of a colony which passed under English rule; and that even among American scholars no one has yet undertaken a version of this well-written history of New France. Yet that French colonial empire embraced no small portion of our own republic, and has left ineffaceable marks of the Gallic rule in the names imposed on natural features, and even on settlements that have risen to the dimension of cities.

In undertaking to supply the want, I purposed to myself to make it a work of enduring and positive value. To a translation made with care and study I designed to add not mere occasional notes, but exact references to authorities for every statement in the text, without further remark where the authorities sustained the statement, but explaining and collating the evidence on points of disagreement. The addition of some biographical information, ethnological and other notes, as well as the supplying of obvious omissions, seemed necessary.