

Preface

within volumes xvi and xvii has now largely been exploited, as well as for the first time given to the public in connected form.

We have made considerable effort to secure documents emanating from such part of Louisiana as comes within our historical domain. But until a calendar has been prepared of material in French archives bearing upon the district of the Illinois, such an attempt is bound to be impracticable; which still further illustrates the necessity for a much closer examination of these archives, so far as they bear upon Western historical problems, than has heretofore been possible.

The Editor wishes to express his earnest appreciation of the faithful and sympathetic translations made for the present volume and its predecessor by Mr. Crawford Lindsay, of Quebec, a widely-recognized authority on early French-Canadian terms. In the work of annotation and of indexing, the Editor has had valuable assistance throughout from Louise Phelps Kellogg, Ph. D., editorial assistant on the Society's staff.

This volume was due, in regular order of publication, some eighteen months ago, but congestion in the office of the State Printer has delayed its appearance until the present time. It is hoped that volume xviii, containing the remainder of such French papers as we have been able to obtain, together with other documentary material having an important bearing on the history of the state, may appear within the present year.

R. G. T.

January, 1906.