which likewise is housed a museum which displays a visual pageant of Chicago's history. The vigilance of the Society's officers is to be commended, particularly in their solicitation in 1882 of a gift of the Lincoln papers then in the custody of Robert Todd Lincoln, who, in his reply to the Society (August 27, 1882) made one of the most colossal understatements of all times when he said: "In reply to your letter of August 7th respecting the custody of letters and documents received and preserved by my father and mother, I have to say to you that the idea of placing them in the custody of the Historical Society would strike me with favor if there were anything of sufficient consequence to include in such a collection..."

While the Society acquired none of the Washington papers, we are relieved to learn that it has one of his razors. Amongst its more gruesome artifacts are the bones of John Lalime, one of the earliest settlers of Chicago. But the Society felt obliged to decline, in 1943, the proferred gift by Sally Rand of the fan which she used so effectively in her famous dances at the Chicago World's Fair of 1933. The Chicago Daily News headline of this event is duly recorded: "Sally Rand pitches curves to fan Historical Society."

Angle modestly described his work as an unconventional chronicle. And so it is. But it will be read with chuckles by succeeding generations, which is more than can be said of the mine run of society histories.

The book is a most attractive example of printing and binding, and contains a serviceable index.

President, Indiana Historical Society    John G. Rauch, Sr.

The Parkman Reader: From the Works of Francis Parkman.
Selected and edited by Samuel E. Morison. (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1955, pp. xv, 533. Frontispiece, maps, bibliography, and index. $6.00.)

This is a book designed to attract the general reader. Unfortunately in the writing of history the number of failures to accomplish this task are much more numerous than the successes. When the works of perhaps our greatest literary historian are out of print it seems necessary that new readers should be given the opportunity to sample his writing in the hope that they will beg for more. History need not be dull, as Parkman demonstrates again and again. Samuel E. Morison has selected chapters from Parkman's study of
France and England in the New World in an effort to make the era live again in the mind of the reader. In this task he has succeeded admirably.

Some historians may find fault with Morison's selections but in this reader's opinion the choices are excellent. The continuity of the volume is remarkable. One may follow the story from the description of the Indian tribes in their native habitat and the coming of the French to the fall of the French at Quebec in 1759. Whole chapters are presented sometimes in sequence rather than excerpts. There is no selection from The Conspiracy of Pontiac but this seems justifiable from the standpoint of the continuity of the story.

The selections may be divided conveniently into four parts. Group number one includes a description of the early settling. Following the picture of the Indian tribes from The Jesuits one is led to the story of early French exploration and settlement. Individuals such as Champlain seem alive through the magic of Parkman. The role and trials of the Jesuits are vividly illustrated through the story of the martyrdom of Father Jogues. A second division includes selections from The Old Regime in Canada portraying life in the area. Trade, industry, marriage, morals, manners, feudalism, government—all aspects of life in the era are described. From here Morison decided to turn to the westward movement through the eyes of La Salle. All this prepares the reader for the final story of the struggle for control of North America between the French and the English. The sack of Deerfield, the siege of Louisbourg, and the battle on the plains of Abraham are all epic narratives of this contest. Parkman's scholarship, imagination, and literary qualities make this a thrilling presentation that grips and holds the attention of the reader.

These chapters are preceded by an exceedingly interesting introduction by the editor. Morison's admiration and defense of Parkman is evident yet he presents a clear picture of the historian and the man. An interesting description of Parkman in 1871 written by l'Abbé Casgrain is included. Many of Parkman's notes are omitted since the book is designed for the general reader, but Morison has added some of his own, including corrections of fact and summaries of new research and conclusions. The bibliography includes an account of the various editions of Parkman's works and a summary of the sales of these volumes.

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