

these, to the former migratory character of our Governments and Parliaments, and, partly, to the recent establishment of the Constitution of the Dominion, it is yet impossible to pronounce what we really have in the shape of Archives, or to point out precisely the localities in which they are lodged. Besides those to be found at the several existing seats of Government, there is a very considerable mass of them at Montreal, and, probably, some remaining at Kingston.

With respect to the Archives of the Colony, of periods antecedent to the year 1764, we may infer some particulars of their nature, and how they were disposed of, by consulting the Articles of Capitulation, dated Sept. 8th, 1760. In seven or eight of these, we find stipulations proposed by DeVaudreuil in behalf of what are concisely styled "papers." DeVaudreuil demands that those in his own possession and that of General de Lévis and Intendant Bigot, as also the Colonial Government papers and those belonging to the several public departments, shall be transported to France, without previous inspection by British officers, under any pretext whatever. In article 45, it is stipulated, on the contrary, that certain documents shall be suffered to remain behind in the offices where they had been customarily kept—these documents being the Registers and papers of the Supreme Council; those of the Provost and Marine Offices at Quebec; those belonging to the Royal Jurisdiction of Three Rivers and Montreal; the Seigniorial papers; the Notarial Deeds lodged in the towns and villages; and, generally, all Records concerning the estates and property of individuals. Gen. Amherst grants the stipulation of article 45, in full. The other stipulations about the papers of De Vaudreuil and the chief officers he also agrees to, with two reservations—namely: 1st, that all the Archives necessary for conducting the government of the country be excepted; and 2nd, that the Marquis de Vaudreuil and all officers, of whatever rank, hand over to the British authorities, in good faith, all plans and maps of the country.

From these particulars we may infer that a large number of Archives must have been removed from the colony to France on the departure of the last French governor with his officers and troops, in the autumn of 1760, but that a very large quantity must have remained behind. However important it might seem to obtain detailed information of all the ancient Records included in General Amherst's exceptions, it is matter of doubt whether any official or other person in this country is at present in a position to furnish it. But we cannot say the same of the Archives of the Supreme Council or some other public Records mentioned in No. 45 of the Articles of Capitulation. In the years 1854 and 1855, three valuable sets were printed and published at the public expense, consisting of the Royal Edicts and Ordinances concerning Canada from 1627 to 1756, the enactments of the Supreme Council since its establishment in 1663, and the Ordinances and Judgments of the Royal Intendants of Canada from 1663 to 1758. We have, besides in printed form, probably all that the most zealous Archaeologist would now care to study on the subject of the Seigniorial Tenure, a result for which I believe the public is indebted to the laborious researches and professional ability of the