

Subsequently the Convent of the Recollets appears to have been used as a debtor's prison, and to have been thus occupied when du Calvet was imprisoned there, he, according to the statement of Father Berey the Superior, having the best rooms in the house, and being at liberty to receive freely visitors of both sexes at all times. The sworn statement of Father Berey strongly and emphatically contradicts the accusations of ill treatment made by du Calvet. It is entitled "*Replique aux calomnies de Pierre du Calvet contre les Recollets de Quebec,*" in series B., vol. 205, pp. 274 to 286. The documents relating to this man, which are voluminous, go to prove that his statements on matters affecting himself are to be received with the greatest suspicion, and that apart from his imprisonment, the policy of which must be judged by the circumstances of the times and the amount of evidence as to his part in the treasonable correspondence that was undoubtedly carried on, his treatment appears to have been considerate. On the plea of the injury his business would sustain, in consequence of his confinement, he offered to sell his merchandise to Government at a reduced price, but the offer was so made that Lt.-Colonel Campbell believed its acceptance would lead to a law suit, "which I very much dislike, but which he seems to be fond of." Colonel Campbell suggested a more business-like way, by which the goods might be delivered at once and the price paid at the same time. Haldimand's answer to Campbell was to purchase the goods if the terms were fair, as "His Excellency wishes his (du Calvet's) private interest to sustain as little injury as possible from his present unavoidable position." In addition, his store was occupied by the military authorities, for which he received the sum of £600 of rent.

The whole of the facts brought out in the correspondence seem to lead to the undoubted conclusion:—1. That a considerable number of people were arrested on suspicion, examined and released with a caution or on bail according to the gravity of the charge and the weight of evidence. 2. That very few were kept in prison more than a few days. 3. That the charge that hundreds of Canadians were imprisoned has arisen from taking it for granted that prisoners of war were political offenders and basing charges under that misapprehension. As an evidence of Haldimand's own course, his letter of the 22nd November, 1781, addressed to Colonel de Speth, commandant at Montreal, may be quoted. After ordering that the accusations by a prisoner named Vroman, from the Colonies, be substantiated before it was acted on, "otherwise we shall have our prisons filled upon trifling suspicions and from private pique," he continues: "The liberty of the subject being by our laws very sacred, it is necessary that suspicion should be well founded to justify imprisonment," and directs that no arrest shall take place for state crimes until each case shall be reported to the civil Governor.

2. The oppressive burden of *corvée* on the people, who were dragged from their homes and employment without compensation.