

all cohesion was destroyed, the slightest attempt to separate them threatening to break them into fragments.

PROCESS.

It was necessary to separate these sheets one by one with a pallet knife, collect the pieces on a plate of glass, and secure the whole with a sheet of silk paper, pasted on; some held more together and required only the application of a sheet of good paper cut in advance, according to the irregularities of the leaves, and which by making up the contour supplied the place of the missing margins.

Another annoyance was the replacing the detached pieces, which had been carelessly arranged, so that they did not fall into their proper places; to reunite the fragments, the sole guide to their true position consisting for the most part in the difference of writing, the variation in the colour of the ink, a fragment of a date or of a name, the work being, in fact, a puzzle. The sheets having been thus prepared, it was necessary to restore to the paper its original cohesion, a delicate work, done by means of a gelatinous solution, after which the sheets were dried, stretched and passed through a rolling machine, to make them smooth, all the work being done in accordance with the improved methods of modern manufacture.

This restoration, which was considered as practically impossible, demanded from the workman great patience, added to acquired experience and an enthusiastic feeling that he was able to contribute to the preservation of documents of value to the Archives of the country. It cost seventy hours of arduous labour, requiring as much intelligence as skill.

RESULT.

After a careful examination of each sheet, and a severe test by manipulation, we can state positively that we have delivered the manuscript in a condition of permanent durability and complete restoration so far as regards the material part of the damage.

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It being considered desirable to have an index of the registers published as early as possible, to supply in an accessible form information for which this office is frequently asked, those from 1723 have been placed in the hands of Mr. Joseph Marmette, Assistant Archivist, to be indexed in such a manner as to show the original grants and all subsequent changes. To make it thoroughly correct, so that it may be relied on by those consulting it, very careful comparison with works of a genealogical character was necessary. Of these I may be permitted to refer to the "Dictionnaire Genealogique" of the Abbé Tanguay, as a work of the most essential service for the period which it covers.

The registers have been indexed from 1723 down to 1781 and the result of Mr. Marmette's labours (at the end of the notes) will, I believe, be found most satisfactory. In next year's report, the rest of the work of indexing will be given, so that the original grants and all the changes that have taken place by succession, sale, purchase or otherwise will be accessible down to 1854, in the most compact and intelligible form possible.

Indexing, calendaring and arranging the documents, so as to be most easily available for the use of investigators, are carried on continuously. Loose Manuscripts