

suggestion, by Cardinal Richelieu in 1627. An idea of the indomitable courage and perseverance of the great founder may be gathered from the slow growth of the colony, as in 1620 there were only sixty inhabitants at Quebec. With the abolition of this company, a new one was formed, called the "Company of One Hundred Associates," under conditions much more favorable to Canada, while, better than all, Champlain himself was made governor. Thus was vice-royalty abolished after having lasted from 1541, the time of Roberval's appointment, until 1627. The restoration of Quebec after its capture by the English in 1629, and the return of Champlain with a large number of settlers and supplies, infused new life into the colony. The governor immediately set about repairing the damage recently done, and endeavored more than ever to promote the prosperity of his people, but his career was soon ended, and the country had to mourn his loss in 1635.

As early as the year 1647, a scheme of colonial union was set on foot. It was proposed that the English, French and Dutch colonies should form one great community, to be wholly free from European politics and wars, while each preserved its own language, laws and religion. Terms suitable to all parties, however, could not be arranged, chiefly in regard to the Iroquois, and the proposed union was unhappily never realized.

Another change in Canadian affairs occurred in 1639, when the second fur company was also abolished, and the country passed under Royal Government, with the introduction of the "Custom of Paris." This change was due in a great measure to the visit of M. Dupont Gaudais. This gentleman was sent out to make inquiries into matters of dispute in the colony, with the above mentioned result. Though the abolition of viceroys residing in France had been a marked improvement in colonial affairs, the introduction of the Custom of Paris was a much more remarkable change. It was now ordained that the governor should be assisted by a "Superior Council," possessing administrative and judicial functions, similar to the Parliament of Paris. This body sat at Quebec, and its members were chosen by the governor from among the leading residents of the colony. Besides, there were established, courts of justice at Quebec, Three Rivers

and Montreal, and a municipal form of government. The existing state of affairs required the appointment of a new officer, called the Intendant, whose duty it was to attend to civil matters. The governor was almost constantly engaged in war with the Iroquois, especially during the period called "The Heroic Age of Canada." Although the right of taxation was still reserved to the King, these ameliorations were very acceptable to the people. The influence of the Church in early colonial days is shown to have been at once powerful and beneficial; for it appears that Bishop Laval had procured the recall of Governor de Mézy, on account of his unreasonable conduct in the suspension of some of his councillors. Another inference to be drawn is, that the Canadians were beginning to take a deep interest in their own affairs, and were not prepared to submit quietly to the unjust demands of their governors. It was not now as formerly, when the governor ruled with absolute power. The colonists thus early manifested an inclination to be possessed of more freedom in the management of their country's affairs. The first to fill the newly created office of Intendant was Jean Talon, who had contributed more than any other man, since Champlain's time, to the prosperity and happiness of early Canadians. His object was to place the colony on a firm footing, and to free it permanently from such influences as had well nigh ruined it. He enabled the settlers to produce for themselves all the necessities of life, and even so abundantly that exports were sent to the West Indies, with which colonies he endeavored to open up trade. Explorations were undertaken that brought to light the mineral wealth of the country, the prosecution of the timber and fishing industries was commenced, and soon these commodities were exported to France. At the same time, this devoted man procured for the people the *full* and *immediate* administration of justice, and carried out other useful reforms. Already then, we behold a new nation happily established on the banks of the St. Lawrence, living in peace and plenty, their old enemies the Iroquois being generally kept at bay in the west by an efficient body of regular troops. And all this was afforded the people by a form of government highly acceptable at the time. How different did their condi-