



Old Windmill, Lower Lachine Road.

a continental soldier remained on the soil of Canada, except as a prisoner.

There was much that is unpleasant to read about in connection with this period of Canadian history.

The French Canadian peasants who formed immeasurably the largest part of the population were uncertain of the benefits supposed to accrue to them under the Quebec Act. Bishop Briand, of Quebec, and his clergy used every effort to keep the people loyal, but the grip of the clergy on the French Canadian people appeared to be weaker at this time than it ever had been



Fraser Falls, near Murray Bay. Que.

previously or than it has ever been since. Some of the spirit of the French revolution appeared to have been transplanted from the banks of the Seine to those of the St. Lawrence. The priests had accepted the new government too readily for some of their people, and were too friendly with the officers of the army and the government. The peasants, all over the province, openly espoused the cause of the invaders, rendering the way easy for them for the conquest of the whole colony except Quebec. The Governor, Sir Guy Carleton, appealed to the seigneurs, and the people resented the latter's interference. The people of Terrehonne seigneurie, near Montreal, not only refused to fight for Britain, but armed themselves and drove their seigneur, M. La Corne, into Montreal, when he tried to enroll them. M. Deschambaud, in his seigneurie on the Richelieu, drew his sword in anger when his



Ste. Anne de Beaupre Church, near Quebec.

people refused to take up arms, and they beat him unmercifully for his demonstration. Three thousand of them armed themselves and marched in threatening array towards Chambly and St. Johns, garrisoned by two regiments, and it required considerable diplomacy to induce them to disband without attacking both places. The people of Berthier not merely drove their seigneur out for trying to enlist them on the government's side, but took a solemn oath that they would not only never take up arms against the Continental invaders but would burn the properties of any who did.

In 1780 the white population of Canada amounted to 127,845.

The years 1783 and 1784 saw the most important accession to Canada's population since