

The *Grande Place* (or Ring) to the east of the Court House for two centuries or more played an important part in city pageants, public meetings, military parades. Until the year of the castle's destruction by fire, in 1834, the Tandem and Driving Clubs in winter used to meet there and the first turnout each fall, presided by the English Governor, occupying the adjoining chateau, was a memorable one. The Ring was planted with shade trees by the Mayor of Quebec, Thomas Pope, Esq., in 1862; recently it has been provided with a fountain and a diminutive *jet d'eau*.

On the site adjoining the residence of James Dmbar, Esq., Q.C., No. 1 St. Louis street, one would now seek in vain for any vestige of the *Palais* or *Senchausee* of 1664, where sat the Sovereign Council. In 1665 it was allotted as the residence of the proud Marquis of Tracy, on his arrival from France. Francis Parkman will acquaint us with this great dignitary of the *ancien regime*:—

“When Tracy set sail he found no lack of followers. A throng of young nobles embarked with him, eager to explore the marvels and mysteries of the western world. The King gave him two hundred soldiers of the regiment of Carignan-Salières, and promised that a thousand more should follow. On the thirtieth of June, 1665, he anchored in the basin of Quebec. The broad, white standard, blazoned with the arms of France, proclaimed the representative of royalty, and Point Levi and Cape Diamond and the distant Cape Tourmente roared back the sound of saluting cannon. All Quebec was on the ramparts or at the landing-place, and all eyes were strained at the two vessels as they slowly emptied their crowded decks into the boats alongside. The boats at length drew near, and the lieutenant-general and his suite landed on the quay with a pomp such as Quebec had never seen before.

“Tracy was a veteran of sixty two years, portly and tall, ‘one of the largest men I ever saw,’ writes Mother Mary.

“The Chevalier de Chaumont walked by his side, and young nobles surrounded him, gorgeous in lace and ribbons and majestic in leonine wigs. Twenty-four guards in the King's livery led the way, followed by four pages and six valets; and thus while the Frenchmen shouted and the Indians