

“But few important events occurred during the government of General Haldimand. The records of the period are of the most meagre description.” (p. 210.) It may on the contrary be said that the period during which Haldimand was connected with Canada was probably the most important in the history of the country, the most striking changes during that time being the transfer of Canada from French to British rule, the passing of the Quebec Act of 1774 and the Constitutional Act of 1791, the revolutionary war and formation of the United States; the advent of the Loyalists and foundation of Upper Canada.

The Haldimand Papers were presented to the British Museum in 1857, by Mr. W. Haldimand, nephew of General Haldimand, by whose care they had been preserved. The character of Haldimand as Governor has been described in most unfavourable terms. Garneau (*Histoire du Canada*, 1848, Tome 3, pp. 470, 471), says that he was an imperious old soldier, good at the head of troops, but little suited by his training for the government of a people accustomed to the rule of law; that he only enforced obedience by inflexible rigour; imprisoned citizens by hundreds, making no distinction between the innocent and guilty. Bibaud (*Histoire du Canada; Domination Anglaise*, 1844, p. 81), says that the possession of intellect, talents and attainments could not be denied to Haldimand, but that those who had complimented him on his firm equity and affable mildness (referring to expressions in the address presented to him on his arrival as Governor) soon saw that they were too hasty, and adds that if some writings of the time are to be believed, his administration must have been one of unjust suspicion, a state of inquisition and espionage, during which numberless acts of cruelty were committed; that extortion and iniquity flourished; and that most of the public functionaries were worthy of such an administration. Bibaud gives M. Pierre du Calvet as his authority for these statements, of whom he cautiously says in a note: “It must always be remembered that M. du Calvet is a writer who exaggerates” (p. 81.) Other authors follow the same line, their charges all resting, so far as can be traced, to the evidence of du Calvet alone. Bibaud, Jeune, in his “*Dictionnaire Historique*” (1857) says that during Haldimand’s government there was great dissatisfaction in Canada; there were many partisans of the Americans and even traitors, that he repressed these without effusion of blood, which few governors in his place could have done.

How far these charges are justified may be discovered from the correspondence. The collection, as is evident from the most cursory examination, was not made for the purpose of preparing a defence or explanation of his conduct, so that in that respect its value is greatly enhanced.

Haldimand was a Swiss, born at Yverdon. The correspondence shows that in 1756, he was commandant at Philadelphia, held in esteem by the generals commanding, and was ordered down to Albany to take command of part of the Royal