

Though the records of beleaguered cities occasionally depict cases of despairing but dauntless men rushing to certain death to snatch trembling mothers, chaste wives or tender infants from the edge of the sword, we seldom read of a youth coolly and premeditatively, without the spur of imminent danger, cheerfully resigning all which makes life attractive—position, nay existence itself, sacrificing all to a mere sense of duty. Nor are we called on here, to contemplate a mere transient, impulsive act of devotion suggested by extraordinary peril, or the offspring of high wrought feeling. It is a rarer spectacle which awaits us : it is the reflection of mature age in youth ; the earnest young Christian, who, ere he steps forth of his own accord, towards that mysterious land of shadows, beyond the grave, deliberately settles all his sublunary affairs, solemnly makes his peace with his Creator and his fellow-men, and then quietly, and with much afore thought, at the head of companions as intrepid—as devoted as himself, binds himself and them by a fearful vow, such as in his opinion, the welfare of his country requires—"not to take, nor grant any quarter." All this, and more, do we find in the act of the youthful commander of the Montreal garrison in 1660—Dollard des Ormeaux. Though noted by Ferland, it is specially to the abbé Faillon we are indebted for acquainting us so minutely with the history of the gallant youth, aged twenty-five years, whose name still clings to the street, he once inhabited.

In order to understand thoroughly, the precarious footing of French Colonists at Montreal in 1660, it is necessary to familiarize one self, with its history, since its foundation in 1642, and for several years later on.

The annalist can note year after year the struggles, sometimes the bloody defeats, oft the merciless revenge suffered or inflicted, by the pent-up, despairing colonists : the blood thirsty Iroquois had vowed to exterminate the last of the *pale faces* who came from beyond the sea, and they very nearly