

which on a fine summer's day enlivens the reapers, while they are gathering in their rich harvest. That of the Canadians was confined to a small quantity of corn of each kind, a little hay and tobacco, a few cider-apples, cabbage and onions. This amazing negligence might be owing to several causes. The excessive cold in winter, which froze up the rivers, totally prevented them from exerting their abilities. A passion for war, which had been purposely encouraged among these bold and courageous men, made them averse to the labours of husbandry. Their minds were so entirely captivated with military glory, that they thought only of war, though they engaged in it without pay. The inhabitants of the CITIES of Quebec and Montreal, spent the winter as well as the summer, in a constant scene of pleasure. They were alike insensible to the beauties of nature, and to the pleasures of imagination. Their only passion was amusement, and persons of all ages were fond of dancing at assemblies. This manner of life considerably increased the influence of the women, who were possessed of every attraction. Idleness and levity would never have gained such an ascendant in Canada, had the government been careful to turn the attention of the people to lasting and useful objects. But all the colonists were required to pay an implicit obedience to a mere military authority. This dangerous authority subsisted till 1663, at which period a tribunal was erected in the capital for the definitive trial of all causes depending throughout the colony. The custom of Paris, modified in conformity to local circumstances, formed the code of their laws. The administration of the finances in Canada, only required a few fines of alienation; a trifling contribution from the inhabitants of Quebec and Montreal towards maintaining the fortifications; and some duties upon all goods imported and exported, which, indeed, were too high.

Such was the condition, not only of Montreal, but of the French settlements in Canada, in general, when a new era was about to burst upon the whole continent of North America; no less important in the consequences which ultimately sprung from it, than extraordinary for the many singular events by which it was characterized during its progress. But this, in so far as it is connected with the subject of our present enquiries, we are under the necessity of reserving for our next number.