



CHATEAU DE RAMEZAY, MONTREAL, WHERE CADILLAC WAS ENTERTAINED IN 1704.

winters of 200 years have disclosed no faults in its construction. I cannot adequately describe its massive walls of stone, its great fireplace in the basement or culline, its vaulted wine cellar which seems like a dungeon of some old castle. The building is two stories in height besides the cellar and basement, and the rooms are large. Here for more than a century assembled the great men of the nation on important occasions. The successive governors met the Indian chiefs on their visits to the city, receiving them in the great reception room of the chateau. Here in this council room sat many of the noted men of the last century—Ramezay, Vaudreuil, Cadillac, Gen. Amherst, Gen. Gage, Sir Guy Carleton (afterward Lord Dorchester), Benjamin Franklin, Charles Carroll (survivor of the signers of the declaration of independence), Benedict Arnold, the traitor, and many others.

In February, 1776, congress appointed three commissioners, Benjamin Franklin, Charles Carroll and Samuel Chase, to go to Canada to see if they

could not enlist the Canadians in the American cause in the war then pending with England. Rev. John Carroll, afterward archbishop of Baltimore, accompanied the expedition. On their arrival at Montreal they were met by Gen. Benedict Arnold. One of the commissioners, Charles Carroll, on the occasion wrote:

"We supped at that general's and after supper were conducted to our lodgings—the house of Thomas Walker—the best built and perhaps the best furnished in this town."

The "house of Thomas Walker" was at the west end of the Chateau de Ramezay, and here they remained until their return to the states. Dr. Franklin, who was old (70 years of age) and infirm, remained but a few days and set out on the 11th of May on his return. Rev. John Carroll started with him.

It is related that while Franklin was stopping in Montreal the first printing press there was set up in the basement of the chateau under his directions, by Joseph Fleury Mesplet, who came to