

New York Herald

"Two of the librarians of the legislature in Quebec have collaborated in a succinct but satisfactory history of the city from its foundation until the present time.... Our author's narrative suggests a picturesque contrast between the earlier and the later days of the French regime. With the exception of a few isolated cases of drunkenness and profanity, which were immediately punished, the first settlers of Quebec appear to have led exemplary lives, under the watchful eyes of Champlain and the spiritual directors. According to the evidence of Father Le Jeune "the Fort St. Louis appeared to be a well regulated academy." Life there was much the same as in a monastery.

"Each person regularly approached the sacraments, joined in the common prayers and during meals listened to the reading of some edifying work. Champlain also established the custom, which is still continued, of ringing the angelus three times a day. This mode of living had a salutary effect upon the whole population, and the good words spoken by the Jesuits of the people at this time do not appear to have been exaggerated."

Let us now skip a century or so and see how Quebec was oppressed and demoralized—with the connivance of her last governor—by the Intendant François Bigot.

One of the nefarious schemes whereby he enriched himself was to make large levies of grain upon the inhabitants, under pretence that it was required for the service of the King, paying whatever price he liked. This was shipped to France by his agents, to be repurchased from his associates for the purpose of being reshipped to Canada and sold at exorbitant prices to the very people