

fore contracted." Certain of the States had passed legislation which prevented British creditors enforcing by process of law their claims against American debtors in these States. They refused to repeal the obnoxious legislation, the general Government could not compel them to do so and this section of the Treaty was a dead letter. Thereupon Britain determined to keep possession of the Forts on the right side of international rivers, including that at Detroit, until redress should be granted to British subjects. Detroit was held as British territory notwithstanding many protests from the American Government,—the Americans did not abandon the claim, but more than once approached the Indians with the claim to sovereignty.

Settlers came in from Ohio and elsewhere till in 1788 there were about four thousand in Detroit and vicinity and "increasing fast",—"along the bank of the River, a computed distance of four miles below the Fort and twelve above it, and about the same distance on the opposite bank." The Indians on the left shore vacillated in their position regarding settlement there—sometimes protesting against it and sometimes expressing their approval. It may be that the quantity and kind of the gifts made to them had something to do with their policy. The whole country on either side of the waters was not infrequently referred to as "Detroit," sometimes, indeed, as "Detroit and its dependencies."

The "Merchants" of Detroit with one exception (Duperon Baby, whom we shall meet again) were English and Scotch: Baby was Canadian, i. e., French-Canadian. In addition to these merchants, there were many Indian Traders, mostly Canadians. These took goods from the merchants, i. e., the importers, carried them into the Indian territory and traded them for furs. It need not be said that no small or unimportant part of these goods consisted of "wet-goods," rum, brandy and the like. The employees of these Traders were also Canadians as a rule. The rest of the population in the Post and the farming community were mixed, Canadians predominating.

Detroit was a great distributing point, sending about £60,000 worth of British manufacture yearly into the Indian territory and consuming about £20,000 in the settlement itself; while great quantities of fur and peltries were sent to Montreal agents to be by them shipped to London for sale on account of the Detroit merchants.

So long as the French Regime lasted, the Commandant of the Fort was the judge in all disputes and had almost unlimited power and jurisdiction. Much the same state of affairs continued when British forces took the place of French: English law was supposed to govern but there is little doubt that "the length of the Chancellor's foot was a foot." By the Proclamation of 1763, Detroit became formally part of the Province of Quebec; and by the same Instrument the English Law, Civil and Criminal, was made the law of the Province.

In the Royal Commission, November 21st, 1763, to James Murray as Captain General and Governor-in-Chief of the Province of Quebec, he