

ferme de l'Amérique qui sont sous sa domination, permet Sa Majesté de faire fondre dans sa Monnoye de Paris des Louis d'argent de France de trois livres pièce et au-dessous et en la Monnoye de Nantes des Doubles tournois de France de cuivre pour composer et fabriquer lesdites espèces conformément à ladite déclaration, enjoignant à cette fin à la Cour des monnoyes et tous autres juges de tenir la main à l'exécution du présent arrest que Sa Majesté veut estre exécuté selon sa forme et teneur, nonobstant oppositions ou appellations quelconques dont si aucunes interviennent Sa Majesté s'en réserve à elle et à son conseil la connoissance, icelle interdit et défend à tous autres juges.

LOUIS.

TERRITOIRE DES OPÉRATIONS DE LA COMPAGNIE DES INDÉS OCCIDENTALES.

La compagnie des Indes Occidentales fut formée par lettres patentes au mois de mai 1664; Louis XIV accordait tout le commerce dans l'étendue des pays de la terre-ferme de l'Amérique, depuis la rivière des Amazones jusqu'à l'Orénoque, dans les Antilles françaises, le Canada, l'Acadie, l'île de Terre-neuve et les autres îles du nord, et dans le pays qui s'étend du Canada jusqu'à la Virginie et la Floride ainsi que sur la côte de l'Afrique, depuis le Cap Vert jusqu'au Cap de Bonne Espérance.

De plus, le roi concédait ces contrées à la Compagnie en toute seigneurie, propriété et justice. FERLAND, *page 31, tome II.*

PATENT LETTERS AS A DECLARATION

IN REFERENCE TO THE ISSUE OF THE FIRST COINS FOR CANADA.

LOUIS, by the grace of God, King of France and of Navarre, to all whom these present letters shall see, Greeting.

"The general Directors of the West India Company, having remonstrated with Us that, to facilitate commerce in the islands and mainland of America and other places of the concession, which We have granted to them, and the convenience of Our subjects who reside in them, it was necessary to send therein the same moneys in order that the artisans and journeymen who have been paid, until the present time only in sugars and *petuns* (tobacco) which they are forced to forward to France to realize their value, and the goods necessary for their subsistence, from which they can derive no help, from one year to another, whilst, the strangers who live in the neighboring islands, have been granted the use of various coins which serve them in their commerce, which fact draws the greater number of said artisans and journeymen into said islands, of which Our subjects suffer much damage, they lack workmen to cultivate sugars, petuns and do other necessary works; and as Our first design in establishing Religion in said islands and mainland of America, could not have the effect We expect therefrom if Our subjects were not attracted and detained there by commerce, and the means of maintaining themselves therein; We have resolved to cause the manufacture in the Mint of Our good city of Paris, of new pieces of silver and of copper, to the amount of the sum of one hundred thousand livres, of the same weight, standard, remedy (*remède*) and value as those which are current in Our Kingdom, and to remit thereon Our right of seigniorage, (1)

(1) SEIGNIORAGE.—The right of seigniorage for the manufacture of coins belongs to the prince. It is not always the same, and is altered according to the will of the prince or the needs of the State. It is for the payment of this right that alloy has been, in part, invented; that is to say, the mixture of other metals with gold and silver in the striking of coins. This right under Louis XIII, and even under Louis XIV, until the year 1679 amounted to six *livres* for each *marc* of gold, and to ten *sols* for each *marc* of silver.