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August, 1777, informed that he had been selected to fill the post of Governor of Canada, and was further informed that it was the King's desire that he should sail for Quebec before the close of navigation. This, however, he was prevented from doing by contrary winds, but he was engaged during the whole of that winter and spring in making arrangements for supplies and in urging means for properly fortifying the Province. On the 30th of June, 1778, he landed at Quebec and took command, Carleton leaving immediately after his arrival.

Haldimand's situation was one of extreme difficulty, cut off, as he was, for six months in the year from all communication with the rest of the world, except such as could be kept up by the slow and precarious route by way of Halifax, or by means of scouts or messengers who were in constant danger of being intercepted. Even in summer, mails were not frequent and the delay in the receipt of dispatches threw a great responsibility on his shoulders. One of his first proposals was to establish a line of swift vessels, to sail once a month, or, at the least, every six weeks, for the conveyance of mails to and from Europe. He laid down plans of defence for the whole Province, including the erection of a citadel at Quebec, defensive works on Cape Diamond, and the purchase and fortification of Sorel to guard against an attack by way of the St. Francis. All the posts were strengthened so far as his means would allow, and the correspondence shows the energy infused into the military operations. To give any satisfactory account of his proceedings during the time he was Governor of Canada would be to write the history of the country, and for that there is an abundance of material in the correspondence and State papers already referred to.

There are, however, a few points to which attention may be directed.

1. The charge made that there was a wholesale imprisonment of Canadians, hundreds of them being imprisoned and after every place had been crowded with political offenders, that the Recollet House was taken to be made use of for this purpose, in which were confined persons who had incurred the ill will or suspicion of underlings, employed as spies on the inhabitants.

The statement appears from the correspondence to have been based, in the first place, on the accusations brought by du Calvet, and in the next from confounding two classes of prisoners, namely, prisoners of war, who had fallen into the hands of the troops in different engagements, and political offenders. It was with the first that the prisons were crowded, and in 1778 when Colonel Carleton had made use of the Recollet House for their reception without consulting with the Bishop of Quebec, Haldimand communicated the fact to the Bishop with an apology (B. 62, p. 253) to which the Bishop replied that he was sensible of the attention paid to him, that in the time of war such things were unavoidable, and that he was perfectly satisfied with what had been done.