

## APPENDIX O.

PATENT OF NOBILITY GRANTED TO ROBERT GIFFARD,  
SEIGNIOR OF BEAUPRE.

The Archives has lately come into possession of the very valuable document, a copy of which is hereunder, conferring a title of nobility on Robert Giffard, Seigneur of Beauport. It was the first patent of nobility granted to a resident in Canada.

Robert Giffard was a native of Perche, the province in France which with Normandy furnished the largest number of first settlers in this country. Born in 1587, he visited Canada in 1627 as ship's surgeon on the vessel by which the annual voyage to the new colony was being made. With the conquest of the country by Kirk, Giffard returned to France. When Canada was restored to France, missionary enterprise among the Indians was revived, and the early letters from the Jesuit Fathers aroused much enthusiasm at home. Companies were formed in different parts of the country, of people who from one motive or another, desired to come to Canada, and among the leaders of this movement was Giffard. Having obtained the seignior of Beauport a tract lying between the St. Lawrence and the St. Charles rivers, he gathered together such of his neighbors as he could to accompany him, and with them set out for Canada. On reaching his seignior he began to carry his plans into effect. A manor house, outbuildings, and houses for his tenants were at once erected, liberal terms were made with the tenants, and farming operations were soon under weigh. This was the first seignior in Canada, in which agriculture was carried on, on any considerable scale.

Giffard occupied an important place in the life of the little colony. He was King's physician for nearly thirty years, and a member of the Council, from at least 1646. In 1647, he was granted the seignior of St. Gabriel, which he transferred to the Jesuits in 1667. He died on the 14th April 1668.

LOUIS PAR LA GRACE DE DIEU ROY DE FRANCE ET DE NAUARRE À TOUS  
P'NS ET À VENIR SALUT SCAUOIR faisons Que nous estant bien informé  
des louables vertus Et merites de N're tres cher et bien amé Robert  
Giffart seigneur de Beauport habitant de la *nouvelle france dicte*  
*Canada* de libre condition et nay en legitime mariage Et des bons  
et agreables seruices qu'il nous a faictz Et pour leserance que nous  
auons que se voyant honoré du degré d'honneur et tiltre de noblesse  
aud' pays de la nouvelle france Il en suiura les actions des person-  
nes nobles Et que luy et les siens nous rendront les seruices que ceux  
de cette quallité nous doibuent. Pous ces causes et attendu quil a  
jusques a p'nt vescu comme il faict encore noblemen et vertueuse-  
ment Auons en inclinant a la supplication et requeste qui nous a esté  
faicte en sa faveur par aucuns de noz spéciaux seruiteur Led' sup-  
pliant ses enfans et postérité soit masles ou femelles nays et a nais-  
tre en loyal mariage Et chacun d'eux annobly et annoblissons de  
n're grace speciale plaine puissance et auctorite royale par ces  
p'ntes signées de n're main Voulons quen tous leurs actes en juge-  
mens et dhors Ils soient tenus pour Nobles aud' pays de la *nouvelle*