

game is plentiful at all seasons. Roads are being made to communicate with each other, because the officers are putting up very fine houses for themselves, and doing well through the alliances which they have contracted with the families of the country."

To be truthful, I should here state that the nobles and seigneurs lived in much less comfort than the workmen and the farmers, because, either through pride or incapacity, they would not or could not turn their hands to farming, and because in general, they had little or no means.

There were a few exceptions, however, who courageously devoted themselves to the cultivation of the soil; even the ladies of their families helping them in their labors. "I have seen," wrote the Governor de Denonville, "two of the Misses de St. Ours working at the crops, and holding the handles of the plough."

Now, a parting souvenir of social life in Canada, and I close: it applies more particularly to the fashionable world. M. Chartier de Lotbinière, wanting no doubt to celebrate his appointment to the office of judge at Quebec, gave a ball a month afterwards, and the *Journal des Jesuites*, which records the event, says on the subject: "On the 4th February, 1667, the first ball given in Canada was held

at the Sieur. Chartier's. May God grant that there shall be no worse consequences."

From the foregoing rapid sketch of the government of the colony at the epoch which we have been considering, of the administration of justice, and of social life in Canada, several conclusions may be drawn:—

In the first place, it is unquestionable that, notwithstanding some faults, the governors, the intendant and the supreme council managed the affairs of New France with wisdom, prudence and zeal.

The law courts were as well organized as they could be, and let me note the fact, with honor to them, that justice was rendered with impartiality, and without costs. In extending my conclusions, with the assistance of my long and scrupulous researches, I can state that I have gone through the judicial registers of the country, and that I have ascertained from the criminal trials, taking the population into account, and comparing with the judicial statistics of our own days, that the moral standard of the early colonists was about the same as that of the present French-Canadian population of the Province of Quebec—one of the most moral peoples on this continent.

Quebec.

