

CANADIAN CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE UNDER FRENCH RULE

I. BEFORE THE INTRODUCTION OF CARD MONEY*

THE general expansion of life in Europe during the fifteenth century, found special expression in the new commercial enterprise which began its rapid development in the latter part of that century and continued through the following one. The various countries of south-western Europe were eagerly over-running the maritime world in search of new lands and that likely treasure with which the experience of Spain had encouraged their imaginations to fill them.

The Norman seaports of France were those best prepared to respond to the expanding trade of the country. The increasing demand for foreign goods, which followed the introduction of Italian luxury and art with the home-coming of Charles VIII, stimulated French shipping. There followed a rapid expansion of the trade and enterprise of such Norman towns as St. Malo, Dieppe, Rouen and Harfleur. Norman sailors roamed the ocean in many directions, but the fisheries of Newfoundland first attracted them to the northern coasts of America. There

* To avoid numerous references throughout the article it may be stated here that the chief sources for this study are the following:—

"Documents relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York," Vol. IX.

"Collection de Manuscrits Contenant Lettres, Mémoires, et Autres Documents Historiques Relatifs à la Nouvelle-France," Vol. I.

"Edits, Ordonnances Royaux, Déclarations et Arrêts du Conseil D'Etat du Roi, Concernant le Canada."

"Jugements et Délibérations du Conseil Souverain de la Nouvelle-France," Vols. I. and II.

"Lettres, Instructions et Mémoires de Colbert." Par Pierre Clément.

"Traité Historique des Monnoyes de France." Par M. Le Blanc.

"Histoire Monétaire des Colonies Françaises d'après les Documents Officiels." Par E. Zay.

Canadian Archives, *Correspondance Generale*, Vols III, VI, VII.