

NOTES.

Influence on Plessis of Bishop Briand —1715-1794.

" It was under a master so able and virtuous (Bishop Briand) that Plessis formed his views of the sacerdotal character and acquired without effort that varied information which subsequently became so useful to him in the direction of the affairs of the diocese of Quebec. In his conversations with the old Bishop he gathered much valuable information upon the causes which had brought about the fall of the French government in Canada and upon the men who directed the affairs of the colony before it had been ceded to England. These conversations, doubtless, had their influence on the opinions that M. Plessis formed touching the merits of the two governments. In considering the system of vexatious trickery organised against the church and the people of the country by some of the chiefs and subordinate employés who were sent by the court of Louis XV at that time under the sceptre of Madame Pompadour, he could not but admit that under the English Government the Catholic Clergy and rural population enjoyed more liberty than was accorded to them before the conquest."

Ferland's Life of Plessis, page 14.
