

seen, were mostly Catholics. So here we have the elements of a very pretty quarrel: trade jealousies and religious animosities. Fortunately the two colonies were separated by a great stretch of intervening territory, and were in no wise in contact. Yet such is the incredible perversity of mankind, that the two communities of white men in that far distant country, surrounded as they were by copper-coloured Indians, and both of them Christians, worshipping the same God in the name of peace on earth and good will towards men, actually contrived to come to blows; and so the killing began.

Christians.

Other complications arose. The French ministers at home, as foolish as they were greedy, vested the right of fur trading exclusively with a certain association or monopoly; probably consisting of their own sycophants and the agents of the latter in the new country. This meant that the monopolists alone had the right to introduce furs into France, their ultimate market.

A monopoly.

Hence, the Indians found it more advantageous to trade with the more distant English settlements down south. This alienated also their good-will, and they took to harrying the French and destroying their crops. The French settlers, disgusted with this monopoly, which spoilt their trade and brought on them the ill-will of the Indians, thus spoiling their agriculture too, found the conditions of life almost insupportable. Many, in consequence, abandoned their own people and went over to the English settlements and established themselves there.

The result

The English Government, appealed to by their own settlers for aid in the conflicts which ensued, behaved with great wisdom and great good feeling. It sharply rebuked the colonists and recommended them to cultivate the friendliest relations with their French neighbours.

A very rare occurrence.

The French, unfortunately, were not so well advised. A desultory war ensued for a long series of years, in which the Indians took part on both sides, and great atrocities were committed. For sixty consecutive years defeat and disaster

The waters of strife.