

The importance of these two notes, however, is not obvious; although, no doubt, the name of D'Aguesseau, afterwards Chancellor of France, is a great name. There is nothing to show that any such Edict ever was drafted by him, or by any one else; and it is at least quite certain none was ever passed.

M. Raudot, in the meantime, in 1708, sent home another letter, (the next document, commencing on page 11 of this same Volume,) accompanied by a memoir showing the various rates, which prevailed in different seigniories. This memoir has not been printed, and seems not to have been found; but this much is clear, that by it, in 1708, Raudot informed the King that the dues paid to the Seigniors were most various, and many of them most onerous, considering that at the time there was little or no money in the country,—that they were, in fact, so various and so many, that he sent home this memoir with the recommendation to bring all to the same level, and this by way of reduction, in order to go back to the early days, "*les temps d'innocence*" as he called them, when all the rates were low. To these two papers, we have no answer from the Minister. There is a short document, dated in 1711, the next in the Volume, (see page 13,) but it has no reference at all to the matter of Raudot's letter; and after that we have nothing more in the Volume, till we come to the year 1716.

Did I say, we have no answer?—I am wrong. We have the King's own answer, in these *Arrêts* of Marly, of the year 1711; showing how extremely small a fraction of all M. Raudot's sweeping recommendations, His Majesty saw fit to regard with any sort of favor. The former of these *Arrêts* of Marly, that which is directed against the Seigniors, is to be found on page 245 of the Second of the Volumes before Parliament, and is in these words:—

"The King being informed that among the tracts of land which His Majesty has been pleased to grant and concede *en seigneurie* to his subjects in New France, there are some which have not been entirely settled, and others on which there are as yet no settlers to bring them into cultivation, and on which also those to whom they have been conceded *en seigneurie*, have not yet commenced to make clearings for the purpose of establishing their domains thereon:—

"His Majesty being also informed that there are some Seigniors who refuse, under various pretexts, to concede lands to *Habitans* who apply to them, with the view of being able to sell the same, imposing at the same time upon the purchasers the same dues (*droits de redevances*) as are paid by the *Habitans* already settled; which is entirely contrary to His Majesty's intentions, and to the clauses of the deeds of concession, (*aux clauses des titres des concessions*), by which they are merely permitted to concede lands subject to dues (*à titre de redevance*); and which also causes very considerable injury to the new settlers, who find less land open to settlement in the places best adapted to commerce:—

"For remedy hereof, His Majesty, being in His Council, has ordained and ordains, that, within one year at the farthest from the day on which the present *Arrêt* shall be published, the inhabitants of New France to whom His Majesty has granted lands *en seigneurie*, who have no domain cleared and no settlers on their grants, shall be held to bring them into cultivation and to place settlers thereon; in default of which, at the expiration of the said time, it is His Majesty's will that the said lands be reunited to his domain, at the suit of the Attorney General of the Superior Council of Quebec, (*Procureur Général du Conseil Supérieur de Québec*), and on the Judgments (*Ordonnances*) to be rendered in that behalf by the Governor and Lieutenant General of His Majesty, and the Intendant in the said country:—

"His Majesty ordains also, that all the Seigniors in the said country of New France do have to concede (*ayant à concéder*) to the *Habitans* the lots of land which they may demand of them in their seigniories, subject to dues (*à titre de redevance*) and without exacting from them any sum of money as a consideration for such concessions; otherwise, and in default of their so doing, His Majesty permits the said *Habitans* to demand the said lots of land from them by a formal summons, and in case of their refusal, to make application to the Governor and Lieutenant General and Intendant of the said country, whom His Majesty enjoins