

to pay the soldiers and not knowing to what Saint to make my vows, the idea has occurred to me of putting into circulation notes made of cards." As there was no printing press in the colony and as few of the inhabitants did any writing the stock of paper on hand was very limited. During the long winter evenings card playing was the favorite amusement of the people consequently there was a large stock on hand ready to supply the writer's demands. This supply was used by the Intendant, and common playing cards, cut in four with the amount written thereon, was the first paper money issued on this continent. From this circumstance it was always known in Canada as *monnaie de carte* or card money. Following the example of Canada, paper money became for a time, almost the only currency of the North American Colonies. Each card was stamped with a *fleur-de-lis* and a crown in sealing wax and was signed by the Intendant and the clerk of the Treasury at Quebec. At a specified time they were convertible into bills of exchange drawn on the Imperial Treasury.

When this issue had been withdrawn from circulation other cards, made payable to bearer, were issued by the home government redeemable in France. They circulated freely among the people who found them convenient in making remittances. At a later period another issue of Canadian card money was put into circulation. They were signed by the Governor and Intendant and bore the coat of arms of the Intendant, the seal of the Governor together with the date and value in writing. The denominations issued were twenty and forty *sols*, and four, sixteen and thirty-two *livres*. At first the issue was not so popular as the old one payable in France, as the people believed that the Canadian cards would not be as readily received in exchange for Treasury bills; but when the time came for making the exchange the Treasurer gave the preference to the holders of the Canad-