

extreme. Luxury, splendour and military display were the order of the day; licentiousness, gambling and other vices were the fashion. During the carnival of 1758, when the people were fed on horse-flesh and, on account of the famine, provisions were sold at exorbitant prices. Bigot gave three balls in succession, at which games of hazard were played until seven or eight the following morning. Each day for a month, gambling was carried on, as much as 900 louis being staked on a single throw, and at the end of the carnival the Intendant owned to having lost 50,000. In his accusation against the Marquis and Marquise de Vaudreuil, Michel de la Rouvillière says: "The first use which has been made of your Excellency's orders to put a cadet in each company was to bestow these favours on newborn children. There are some between fifteen months and six years who come in for the distribution."

During the dark and ominous days of that last fatal struggle, we find the bearers of the old, historic names still displaying the fiery, impetuous valour which had illuminated the early annals of their country. In alluding to the Canadian officers, the Marquis de Vaudreuil remarked: "The details of their expeditions, of their voyages, of their negotiations with the aborigines, present miracles of courage, of activity, of patience in famine, of coolness in danger, of obedience to their general's commands, which cost many their lives without in the least abating the ardour of the others."

At the time of the conquest, death and misfortune made withering havoc among the flower of Canadian chivalry. It had been agreed between the two powers who had so long engaged in a struggle for supremacy, that those Canadians who were willing to take the oath of fidelity to England should be permitted to retain their property; those who objected to doing so were obliged to sell their estates to subjects of his British Majesty. This compelled many gentlemen to dispose of their land at enormous loss. Those whose allegiance no vicissitude of sway had power to shatter, returned to France, where many of the ancient Canadian titles still flourish in honour. When the fierce torrents of the Revolution swept over the Mother Land, numerous Canadians paid the penalty of their loyalty with their lives. Two members of the Vaudreuil family defended Louis XVI. at the Tuilleries. Jean de Lantagnan and his sons were massacred at Versailles, September 9th, 1792. De la Chesnaye was murdered in one of the prisons of Paris. Chamilly de Lorimier, Chamberlain of the King, after giving the highest proofs of his attachment to his Royal Master, was executed. Among those who laid down their lives for the Bourbon cause were Hertel del Chambly, the proprietor of great domains in Cayenne and French Guinea, Rayen de Chavoy, Count de Soulouges, M. de Senneville and Count de Tilly.

A large number of the Canadian nobility perished on the ship *Auguste* which was carrying them to France. The vessel started the 15th October, 1761, having on board a number of officers belonging to the best families, some ladies of rank, sixteen children, besides soldiers and servants. The levity almost amounting to recklessness of the volatile, French temperament appears to have triumphed over the poignant circumstances of despair and defeat which were driving these exiles from their native land. Perhaps some wild touch of desperation, while it scorched and stung, urged into wild excess; but the whole party seem to have given themselves up to the most frivolous gaiety. A violent storm, which lasted forty-eight hours, arose. The ropes which bound trunks and packages broke, and many of the crew were injured by the freight which rolled about in every direction. The terror of the travellers was extreme, but as soon as the tempest's fury abated the fear was immediately forgotten. St. Luc de la Corne, one of the passengers, says: "How many vows to heaven! what promises! and shall I say it, what perjuries!"

No sooner delivered from this danger than the unfortunate vessel was menaced by another. Fire broke out and was only quenched by almost incredible exertions on the part of the soldiers and crew, but not before the ship had been much damaged by the flames. The whole company were obliged to subsist on biscuit, the tempest continued to increase, and the boat drifted at the mercy of the storm. The crew now consisted of only fifteen men, including captain, mate, cook and sailors, two of whom were crippled. Sea-sickness and lack of food had paralyzed the mariner's energies, in a dull lethargy of despair they threw themselves into their hammocks, and though the mate strove with blows to arouse them, his efforts were utterly futile. Drifting until she reached Cape Nord, Isle Royal, about 120 feet from land, the vessel turned on one side. Many, frantic

with terror, cast themselves into the water and were swept away by the billows. The leaking ship being now half full of water, the only hope lay in the two small boats. The largest was dashed to pieces by the waves that cast the second adrift. With admirable presence of mind several, among whom were the captain and St. Luc de la Corne, sprang into it, and on the crest of a great billow the frail craft was dashed upon the shore. This was about three p.m. of the 15th November. About three hours later the *Auguste* went to pieces, and 114 persons perished miserably. Only seven were saved, and they crowded together, half dead from cold and exhaustion, endured the misery of seeing their late companions washed up dead on to the land.

In the list of the Canadian nobility sent by Sir Guy Carleton to the British Minister he mentions:—

Canadian noblesse residing in Canada.	110
Canadian officers in France	79
Officers, natives of France, who came over as cadets to the colony where they were promoted, and on going to France were treated as Canadian officers	15

There were some of the Canadian gentry who had taken root in the country, to whom their native land was dearer than the king who had so basely abandoned them, the Mother Country who had so cruelly cast them off. The new order of things was scarcely comprehended, the great catastrophe had created a chasm between the present and the past. Impoverished by famine, exhausted by long years of active warfare, Canada was in a lamentable condition. Cut off from the career of arms, which, until now, had formed their chief occupation, it must have seemed to the Canadian seigniors as though the very foundations of the earth had crumbled beneath their feet. For a time their lot was really deplorable. In his correspondence with Lord Shelburne, Sir Guy Carleton displays an earnest desire to do justice to the French Canadians. He expressly states that the lower classes were greatly influenced by their seigniors.

"Gentlemen who have lost their employment and have little hope of favour or advancement from the British Government." And again, he says, "The most we may hope from gentlemen who remain in the Province is a passive neutrality on all occasions, with a respectful submission to Government. This they, almost to a man, have persevered in since my arrival, notwithstanding much pains has been taken to engage them in parties." Then, addressing Lord Hillsborough, he writes, "Notwithstanding their decent and respectful obedience to the King's Government hitherto, I have not the least doubt of their secret attachment to France, and think that it will continue as long as they are excluded from all employment under Government, and are certain of being reinstated, at least in their former commissions under that of France, by which chiefly they supported themselves and their families."

The first Canadian gentlemen who obtained employment under the British Government was M. Chassegrose de Léry, an engineer, and since that epoch unswerving loyalty has been the distinguishing characteristic of the Canadian aristocracy. The valour which had won glory for France shed its blood with the same heroic devotion in the English cause. The saying of M. de Salaberry might have been echoed by many of his countrymen, "No subject has made greater sacrifices for the King of England than I, for, of four sons, I have lost three in his service."

When the war of 1775 broke out between England and her American colonies, the Canadians were not enthusiastic about taking up arms. No tie of faith or race bound them to either of the conflicting parties. "They were the more inclined to believe that they could not be obliged to bear arms and that it was lawful for them to remain neutral, that formerly the English invading the country under Wolfe and Murray had required of them, of their fathers, a strict neutrality under penalty of exemplary punishment."* "The English counted for little in the actual struggle on account of their small number, and then the most part either secretly or openly sympathized with the Congress."† According to the census of 1765 there were scarcely 500 English in the country. Sir Guy Carleton had only two regiments of regulars, numbering from eight to nine hundred men with which to oppose the enemy's progress. The Indians resolutely declined to participate in the contest; at this crisis aid was received from quarters from whence it could least have been expected. The Roman Catholic Church threw all the weight of her authority on the side of the new Government; the gentry flew to arms in defence of their country. The Chevalier

* Histoire du Canada sous la Domination Française.

† Garneau.

de Longueuil, descendant of the heroic Lemoynes, did not disdain to serve in the army in an inferior capacity; the influence of the Chevalier de la Corne and that of the de Lorimiers secured the services of the Indian allies.

In 1812 the Canadians arose almost to a man to repulse the invaders. M. Roux, Superior of the Seminary of Montreal, struck the right chord when he said: "You are the children of those heroes who have so often marched to victory. Like them, you have your hearths to defend, your liberty to preserve."

Colonel de Salaberry rendered his country distinguished services. This gentleman was an officer of experience and wonderful courage. At a very early age he entered the British army, and when scarcely more than sixteen was present at the famous Siege of Fort Matilda, directed by General Prescott. In the expedition of '95 against Martinique, the hero of Châteauguay, commanded a company of Grenadiers. After serving in Spain under Wellington, taking part in both the Siege of Badajoz and the battle of Salamanca with the 60th Regiment, of which he was major, he returned to Canada, where he served on Colonel de Rottenburg's staff. He was chosen by Sir George Prevost to raise a corps of Canadian Voltigeurs, a commission which he executed with entire success. The gallant soldier was sent to Châteauguay to oppose the progress of 7,000 men under Hampton. The invading army formed two divisions, one being stationed on the right shore, the other on the left. De Salaberry selected an excellent position surrounded by ravines. He caused barricades to be erected to defend a ford, which, in order to guard his left flank, it was absolutely necessary to protect. De Salaberry's force consisted of 300 Canadians, with a few Scotchmen and Indians. Three companies, with some volunteers and Indians, were stationed in front, three others with the Scotch had been placed behind the barricades. Suddenly, at the head of Hampton's infantry, appeared a tall officer, who, as he advanced, cried in French to the Voltigeurs:—

"Brave Canadians, give yourselves up. We will do you no harm." The only response he received was a shot which threw him to the ground and gave the signal for the battle. The trumpets sounded, and a lively fire opened along the line. After a time the American General changed the disposition of his forces, endeavouring by vigorous charges to break his adversary's line. He concentrated his men, directing them first on one side then on the other, but the Canadians fought with enthusiasm. De Salaberry opened fire so energetically on the enemy's flank that they withdrew in disorder. The Canadians' audacity was so great that Voltigeurs were seen swimming across the river, under heavy fire, to take prisoners.

During the Rebellion of 1837 the Seigniors' influence was actively exerted on behalf of the Crown. With the exception of the unfortunate de Lorimier, who perished on the scaffold, there is scarcely an instance of one of the ancient, historic names appearing among "the patriots."

When the Seigniorial tenure was abolished, of course many of the distinctive privileges of the old nobility passed away with it. In the successive crisis and development of our constitution the old order has changed, the ancient, heroic qualities have become moulded into new forms, apparently more commonplace, but perhaps of more practical utility.

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CANADIAN ARTISTS AT THE PARIS SALON.

THE Salon this year contained fewer paintings than last year; out of 5,000 works sent only 1733 were accepted, and, from this fact, it is supposed the quality of the paintings were of a higher merit. The successful Canadians entered in the catalogue of exhibitors are here given: Blair Bruce, born in Canada, pupil of M. M. Bouguereau, and Tony Robert Fleury. The subject of his sketch is called "A Young Lady Modelling a Piece of Statuary." The harmony of colour and fine pose of the figure are excellent, and arrest the attention of the spectator. Mr. Bruce is a former exhibitor. Paul Peel, born in London, Ontario, pupil of Benj. Constant, Doucet and Jules Febvre, exhibits an ambitious canvas, subject: "Two Children Playing in a Garden," called "Jeunesse." The excellence of his colour, simplicity in his composition, and a touch of humour in his work, with his well-known facility in delineating the characteristics of children, has won for Mr. Peel a reputation even in the art world of Paris, and the 3rd class gold medal conferred on him at the Salon of last year establishes him as a master. W. Edwin Atkinson, born in Toronto, pupil of Bouguereau and