

had an open view to the river front. The vaults were of ancient castle construction. Even the attic floors were of stone slabs.

Under de Ramezay's regime, 1703 to 1724, this venerable edifice was the hall of entertainment of the illustrious of the country. The many expeditions to the distant fur fields, the voyages of discovery of new lands, the council of war, the military expeditions, the conferences with the Indians, the annual fairs and fur trading market, attracted to the shores of Montreal, not only the Governor-General, the Intendant, and their suites, but a considerable number of the most important people of the country, including all classes of society. To one and all the portals of this hospitable mansion were ever open. To the lowly Indian and his squaw, and to the exalted nobleman and his consort, the noble and beneficent Ramezay and his family showed equal attention. Fearless to the Indian or enemy, his bravery and charity were equally exemplified in the personal care and attention he and his family gave to the suffering citizens of Montreal during the pest which devastated the town in 1721.

De Ramezay died in 1724, and his family sold the Château to the *Compagnie des Indes* in 1745. The latter retained possession until the cession, in 1763, when it was bought by Wm. Grant, who, in turn, disposed of it to the English Government for the sum of two thousand guineas. It thus became again the residence of the Governors, and remained such up to 1849.

In 1776-6, the Château was the Headquarters for the Continental Army under Montgomery, and in the spring of 1776, there came Benjamin Franklin, Carroll of Carrollton, and Samuel Chase, envoys sent by Congress to influence the French Canadians to join the colonies in the revolt against British rule. Then came Benedict Arnold, who occupied the Château for several weeks. The mark of the old reception dais is still seen on the salon walls.

Lord Meacalfe was the last resident governor, but for some years after his establishment in a new government house the Château was used for departmental offices. When the government was withdrawn from Montreal, the Château served several purposes. For some years courts were held here, and later the Normal School, then courts again.

In 1894 the Château was sold by the Provincial Government and purchased by the Corporation of the City of Montreal, for the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, which, in 1895, obtained the building for the purpose of founding their Historical Portrait Gallery and Museum.