

treaty of peace of 1783 delivered it over to the enemy, in spite of their protests of possession.

The most important action, from its effect of preserving Canada to the crown, was the defense of Fort St. Jean, Sept. 5th, 1775; the American Generals, Montgomery and Schuyler, with 2,000 men, appeared before Fort St. Jean, on their way to capture Montreal, Three Rivers and Quebec. The English of the lower class in the country encouraged the insurgents; the French of the lower class were inclined the same way and were prevented going over to the enemy in a body only by the priests, who feared for their own rights under a revolutionary and puritanical regime. The seigneurs and officers of the noblesse, both French, and Scottish, the latter of whom had received seigneurial grants from Governor Murray, raised a seigneurial guard of two contingents, one of which, mostly Scottish, was directed towards Quebec, the other, mostly French, under the Baron de Longueuil, was sent to relieve Fort St. Jean. The arrival of this little company of *élite* at the fort raised the spirits of the garrison, whose officers were induced thereby to make a vigorous defense. This Seigneurial Guard did most of the fighting during the 45 days of resistance which held the American army back among the marshes of the Richelieu. It was among them only that any were killed in sortis. And when by lack of succor, and of provisions, the place surrendered finally, the delay had enabled Sir Guy Carleton to put Quebec in such a condition of defense that it held the disaffected in the country quiet and beat off the last efforts of the foe. From this time and until after the conclusion of the peace of 1783 Canada became the objective point of settlement for the 45,000 American loyalists who were directed towards Canada by land and sea with their wives and children and such poor relics of their former affluence, which they could carry with them from the clutches of an insolvent and cruel foe. Towns sprang up in the old province where they settled; the new provinces of New Brunswick (1784) and Ontario (1791) were created by them; refinement, wealth, and above all loyalty to principle—the best heritage—followed in their footsteps. They and the French royalists "have proved a barrier to the growth of any an-