

upon the treasury of the mother country were not honoured, and from that time fell into discredit. They were at last paid in 1720 with the loss of five-eighths. This event occasioned the revival of the use of specie in Canada: but this expedient only lasted two years. The merchants, especially of Montreal, found it troublesome, chargeable and hazardous to send money to France: so that they were the first to solicit the re-establishment of paper currency. This consisted of cards, on which were stamped the arms of France and Navarre, and they were signed by the governor, the intendant and the comptroller. They were of twenty-four, twelve, six, and three livres, and thirty, fifteen, and seven sols and a half. The value of the whole number that was made out, did not exceed a million of livres, or £43,750 sterling. When this sum was not sufficient for the demands of the public, the deficiency was made up by orders signed only by the intendant. These different papers circulated in the colony, and supplied the want of specie till the month of October. This was the latest season for the ships to sail from Canada. Then all this paper currency was turned into bills of exchange payable in France by the government, which was supposed to have made use of the value. But they were so multiplied by the year 1754, that the royal treasury could no longer answer such demands, and was forced to protract the payment. An unfortunate war that broke out two years after, so increased their number, that at last they were prohibited.

Such is a partial view of the state of Canada, when those hostilities commenced between Great Britain and France; whose results have forever severed the intimate connection, which so naturally subsisted betwixt the colony and the mother country, and placed within the dominions of England an extensive tract of country, unknown in its limits even to geographers of the present day; and a people, who have hitherto distinguished themselves, even under untoward circumstances, as polite among themselves, courteous to their rulers, submissive to the laws, and loyal to their king. That it will be necessary, succinctly, to allude to the events which led to this important issue, we hope none of our readers will be disposed to question. If, however, there are any who may be inclined to think, that we might have given an historical account of Montreal, without entering so deeply into the general history of Canada, we can assure them, that, in doing so, we have only followed the example of every civic historian that has preceded us. But, in truth, we conceive it to be almost impossible, even for a writer of superior talents, and information, to convey, either an adequate or just detail of the rise and progress of a city, unless he be permitted to blend, to a very considerable degree, its history with that of the country of which it may either be the capital, or some other place of no mean importance. To pursue a different line of conduct, would be like the astronomer, who thought it sufficient to instruct his disciples in the beauty and grandeur of the sun, without including the whole solar system.

At the treaty of Utrecht, whilst so many more important interests were discussed, the limits of Nova-Scotia, then called Acadia, were expressed only in general terms, and left to be put on a more certain footing by subsequent negotiations. These negotiations, pursued with no vigour, and drawn out into an excessive length, seemed only to increase the former confusion. During the interval, the British Colonies in America extended themselves on every side. Whilst agriculture and