

were the authorities with the progress he had made that another priest was added to his staff and he returned with M. D'Urfé, who remained with M. Trouvé at Kenté while his Superior proceeded farther west and spent the following winter at Frenchman's Bay.

The season proved to be the severest ever experienced by the white men in the new world, both for its length and intensity. They were too far removed from Montreal to obtain any succour from that source and, as the colony had been in existence for only four years, the Indians had not been able in their new home north of the lake to raise sufficient food stuff upon the limited quantity of land under cultivation to tide them over until spring. To the bitterness of the keen frost was added the terror of a wasting famine, and the priests shared the miseries of their parishioners by eking out their scanty larder with such game as they could share and such roots as could be dug from the frozen ground. It is generally believed that from the exposure suffered by M. Fenelon during these terrible months his constitution was so shattered that he never fully recovered. For five years he laboured in this district, dividing his time among the various stations of the mission, and penetrating to the north in Victoria County where Fenelon township and Fenelon Falls still bear the name of this ardent young pioneer priest and educationist.

In 1674, shortly after the building of Fort Frontenac, he became involved in an unfortunate quarrel over the appointment of a Governor of Montreal, which seigniority belonged to the Sulpicians, who claimed the right to appoint their own Governor and resented the interference of the Governor of the colony. Quite naturally, Fenelon espoused the cause of his brethren of the Seminary, and with perhaps more courage than prudence, considering the jealousy existing between the civil and ecclesiastical authorities, he preached the Easter sermon in the Church of the Hotel Dieu at Montreal, and in the course of his remarks pointed out the attributes that should characterize the rule of a God-fearing Governor. Among his congregation was a warm friend of the Governor who was associated with him in some business transactions of the very character which the preacher had denounced. The offending Abbé was summoned before the Council at Quebec, appointees of the Governor, and charged with sedition. He challenged the jurisdiction of this civil tribunal to sit in judgment upon him and the case was eventually carried before the King. Fenelon's objection to the authority of the Council was sustained; but for diplomatic reasons, possessing no true merit, he was enjoined from again returning to the mission field. He died a few years after his return to France at the early age of thirty-eight, a natural death it is true, yet none the less a martyr to the cause to which he so unreservedly devoted his life.