

the channel of a new life between Louisiana and Canada. And, strange to say, we find the oldest and cruellest enemies of New France, the Iroquois, reduced by Frontenac some forty years before, marching side by side with our militia and our old Indian allies, to humble the pride of the Foxes, the Chickasaws and the Sakis, an ephemeral faction of whom we get a momentary glimpse amidst the misty swamps of the south-west—the last rampart of an expiring barbarism.

By the forest paths of the new world, now become less dangerous, by the devious course of its rivers and inland seas, which had now become more practicable, our explorers and hardy bush-rangers pushed forward, enlarging the possessions of France. And while a chain of forts spring up in the valley of the Mississippi and on the shores of Lake Champlain, destined to bind Canada with Louisiana and isolate the English colonies lining the Atlantic seaboard, La Verendrye, in search of the still mysterious Pacific, discovers the now fertile plains of the North-West, destined to be the granary of Canada and perhaps ere long that of the old European continent.

But this adventurous spirit, this incredible expansion of the little Franco-Canadian people, was not unaccompanied with danger to the life of the colony. Enlightened minds in France had already become alarmed at this premature scattering of forces. The edicts against the "coureurs des bois" became more and more severe, and it was found necessary to gather the colonists into groups and centres. Thus on the 24th of May, 1728, De Maurepas, Minister of Marine, writes to Dupuis, then Intendant of Canada: "The policy of the people of New England being to labour at the thorough cultivation of their farms and to push on their settlements little by little, when it comes to a question of removing to a distance they will not consent to do so, because the expense would fall upon themselves. * * * * The settlers of New France are of a different mind. They always want to push on, without troubling themselves about the settlement of the interior, because they earn more and are more independent when they are further away. The result of this difference in the mode of proceeding is, that their colonies are more densely peopled and better established than ours."

If we turn aside from the great lines of the history of wars, industry and commerce, and seek the more restricted, but no less interesting, field of the social life, domestic manners and character of our ancestors, there is no lack of new matter to excite our curiosity; and firstly, we have a striking portraiture of the Canadians by the Intendant Hocquart, written in 1737:—"The Canadians," he says, "are naturally tall, well made and sturdy. Owing to the fact that the industrial arts are not restricted by trade organizations, and that in the early days of the settlement of the colony mechanics were scarce, necessity compelled them to resort to mechanical industry from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the rural districts are skilled in the use of the axe. They make for themselves nearly all their farm implements, and build their own houses and barns. Many of them are weavers, and make coarse linen and cloth they call 'droguet,' with which they clothe themselves and their families. They love to be distinguished and caressed, and are extremely sensitive to contempt or the smallest punishment. They are reserved, vindictive, given to drunkenness, using largely of spirituous liquors, and have the reputation of not being truthful. This description is applicable to the greater number, and more especially to the country people. The townspeople are less vicious. They are all attached to their religion. There are but few criminals. They are flighty and self-conceited, and hence they do not succeed as they might in the arts, agriculture and trade. To this must be added idleness, which is induced by the long and rigorous winter. They are fond of hunting, sailing and travelling, and have not the coarse, rustic appearance of our French peasants. They are, generally speaking, docile enough when stimulated by a sense of honour and justly ruled; but they are naturally refractory."

The writer afterwards deals with the nobility, the army and the militia. He then takes up agriculture and commerce, mining, shipbuilding, Indians and missionaries. In relation to the education of men, he says:—"All the education received