

CANADA

AND

THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

THE treaty of 1762 secured to England that vast territory which the valour of Wolfe and his companions had won. France, at the same time, ceded Louisiana to Spain, and thus relinquished all her possessions in North America, and with them, the design, so long entertained and so industriously prosecuted, of erecting in the interior of the continent a chain of possessions capable of preventing the western growth of the British colonies.

The importance of their acquisition did not strike the minds of all the people of England. Whilst the treaty was in discussion, the government was urged by some to retain Guadaloupe in place of Canada. It would seem that they had derived their opinion of it from the derivation of its name given by Hennepin, whether correctly or not is questionable. Speaking of its Spanish discoverers he says, that "at their first arrival having found nothing considerable in it, they abandoned the country and called it *Il Capo di Nada*, that is the Cape of Nothing. Two of the Burkes wrote a pamphlet urging the government to prefer acquisitions in the West Indies to Canada. Others professed to see something desirable in Canada's being kept by the French, as it would *prove a check* on the English colonies; a mild term, as was remarked by an American then in England, for the murdering of the colonists. Perhaps such advisers were beginning to foresee that it might be difficult for England to retain the colonies single-handed.

The inhabitants of the ceded province seem to have taken their change of masters very quietly. Simple minded and primitive in their manners, living as their forefathers had done and desiring no other mode of existence, they seem to have felt but little the shifting of the government from Paris to London. The good will