

wealth to be discovered thereon to further orderings of the King

The duties of the seigneurs were to act as judges among their tenants in all cases except for murder and treason, to see that they had proper military instruction under their command, as musketeers or cavalry, to keep open and repaired the roads and to build bridges and to erect a mill in which the tenants might grind their corn. All their lands and rights passed in hereditary succession, but in case of there being no direct heir, a collateral heir paid a year's rent into the royal treasury for privileges of succession. The seigneur might sell his seigneurie with the consent of the next heir and the King, in which case the purchaser was to pay one-fifth of the purchase money into the royal treasury.

The seigneurs divided their lands into lots of three acres by eighty fronting on the St. Lawrence, and the tenants on these paid rent in money, provisions and fuel, one-fourteenth of the produce and a tithe of the fish which they caught. They were bound to serve, also, in the seigneur's company of cavalry or musketeers. They were to be protected by the seigneur, whose principal obligation was to promote their welfare and prosperity.

In many of the seigneuries there were parishes and, apart from the cares of the church the cure looked after the rudimentary education of the children of the parish.

In the manour-house of each seigneurie were libraries, musical instruments, instruments of surveying, engineering and chemistry and for making and repairing arms. Among the seigneurial families were the best educated and most talented of all the colonists who ever came to America, and they served, in their manourial domains as instructors to the youth of their families, so that a society of greater culture and refinement was perpetuated and propagated than in those colonies where no hereditary institutions of merit were established. To this Order of Merit which the King established in the seigneurial distinctions were added many of the personal favors of the Royal and Military Order of St. Louis. Sir Walter Scott describes the quality of mind that recognitions such as these cause to dominate in a community:

(From the "Doom of Devergoil," by Sir Walter Scott)

"— I know that minds
Of nobler stamp receive no deeper motive
Than what is linked with honor, ribbons,
tassels,
Which are but shreds of silk and spangled
tinsel,—

The right of place, which in itself is momentary,—

A word, which is but air—may in themselves

And to the nobler file, be steeped so richly

In that elixir, Honor, that the lack
Of things so very trivial in themselves
Shall be misfortune. One shall seek for them

O'er the wild waves, one in the deadly
breach

And battles' headlong front, one in the
paths

Of midnight study. And in gaining these
Emblems of Honor, each will hold himself

Repaid for all his labors, deeds and dangers

What then would he think (knowing them
his own)

Who sees what warriors and what sages
strive for,

The formal and established marks of
Honor,

Usurp'd from him by upstart insouciance?"

On the other hand, Sir John Bernard Burke in the Second Series of his "Vicissitudes of Families," p. 76, declares:

"The treasures accumulated by avarice,
seldom do they form the enduring

foundations of a family establishment. Warriors, statesmen, merchants, lawyers—all have originated great and flourishing houses, but misers are rarely the patriarchs of families of enduring prosperity.

A very learned friend of mine, deeply versed in the vicissitudes of genealogy, assures me that he never knew four generations of a miser's family to endure in regular, unbroken succession."

With such a system in Canada, it is natural to conclude that there would be established in the Province of Quebec the most historic houses of the American Continent and the homes of family greatness. A few among these are well worthy of mention, for the grandeur of a nation is bred and nurtured in the homes of its families. It has been a saying from remotest antiquity that agricultural nations are the noblest because their homes are more durable, consequently the better qualities of family are