

INTRODUCTION.

ENGLAND and France started in a fair race for the magnificent prize of supremacy in America. The advantages and difficulties of each were much alike, but the systems by which they improved those advantages and met those difficulties, were essentially different. New France was colonised by a government, New England by a people. In Canada the men of intellect, influence, and wealth, were only the agents of the mother country; they fulfilled, it is true, their colonial duties with zeal and ability, but they ever looked to France for honour and approbation, and longed for a return to her shores as their best reward: they were in the colony but not of it; they strove vigorously to repel invasion, to improve agriculture, and to encourage commerce for the sake of France, but not for Canada.

The mass of the population of New France were descended from settlers sent out within a short time