

by Bigot, were printed in France, and usually made out for definite sums, yet at this time the treasury notes and receipts were entirely written in Canada, and signed by Michel at Montreal and Varin at Quebec. Hocquart had apparently to sign them also, for he complains of the amount of time consumed in signing them, though others are employed to write them out. He asks to be relieved from that duty, saying that the confidence in all kinds of paper is so great that their credit would be quite good without his signature. Yet he admits that the soldiers endeavour to counterfeit them, as also the card money. He declares himself heartily tired of the multiplicity of paper, and longs for a supply of proper money in the treasury with which to pay the officers, workmen, purveyors and others who depend upon getting their payments promptly and in current money, to enable them to supply their needs or carry on their business. After the issue of the letters of exchange there should be sufficient good current money—and he includes card money under that title—to meet the expenses of the colony for the coming year. Besides petitioning for more card money, he desires the treasurer-general to establish an agency or office in Canada for the better administration of the financial affairs of the colony.

Isle Royale was at this time the great meeting place or centre of trade between Canada, the West Indies and France, together with the neighbouring fisheries.

For the purposes of the French privateers, Louisbourg, the capital of Isle Royale, was ideally situated with reference to the English fishing grounds, and the trade route between England and the West Indies by way of Boston, New York, and other colonial ports. The French privateers, obtaining stores and supplies at Louisbourg, issued forth to gather in fishing vessels from Boston and other New England ports, or seize upon English and West Indian traders not powerful enough to protect themselves. On the approach of any superior English force they could run into Louisbourg harbor, and be safe under the protection of its strong fortifications. Little wonder that the American colonists looked upon Louisbourg as their most grievous scourge, and almost exhausted their modest resources to accomplish its destruction. In this they succeeded,