

would be necessary for their subsistence, with a sufficient quantity of grain to sow it the first year.

Fortune did not second the endeavours of government in favour of the new company. The first ships they fitted out were taken by the English, who were lately at variance with France, on account of the siege of Rochelle. Richelieu and Buckingham, who were enemies from jealousy, from personal character, from state interest, and from every motive that can excite an irreconcilable enmity between two ambitious ministers, took this opportunity to spirit up the two kings they governed, and the two nations they wanted to oppress. The English, who sought for their interests, gained the advantage over the French; and the latter lost Canada in 1629. The council of Lewis XIII. were so little acquainted with the value of this settlement, that they were inclined not to demand the restitution of it; but the pride of the leading man, who, being at the head of the company, considered the engagements of the English as a personal insult, prevailed with them to alter their opinion. They met with less difficulty than they expected; and Canada was restored to the French in 1632. by the treaty of St. Germain en Laye.

The French were not taught by adversity. The same ignorance, the same negligence, prevailed after the recovery of Canada as before. The monopolizing company fulfilled none of their engagements. This breach of promise, far from being punished, was, in a manner, rewarded by a prolongation of their charter. The clamours of all Canada were disregarded at such a distance; and the deputies, sent to represent its wretched situation, were denied access to the throne, where timid truth is never suffered to approach, but is awed into silence, by threats and punishments. This behaviour, equally repugnant to humanity, private interest and good policy, was attended with such consequences as might naturally be expected from it. Commerce declined, as the communication was too dangerous. The Indians, weakly supported by their allies the French, were continually lying before their old enemy, whom they were accustomed to dread. The Iroquois, returning their superiority, openly boasted that they should compel the strangers to quit the country, after having seized upon some of their children, to replace such as they had lost of their own. The French themselves, forgotten by their mother country, and unable to gather in their scanty crops without hazard of their lives, were determined to abandon a settlement so ill supported. Such was

the deplorable state of the colony, that it was reduced to subsist upon the charities which the missionaries received from Europe.

The French ministry, at length awakened from their lethargy by that general commotion which at that time agitated every nation, sent a body of four hundred well disciplined troops to Canada in 1662. This corps was reinforced two years after by the regiment of Carignan. The French gradually recovered an absolute superiority over the Iroquois. Three of their nations, alarmed at their losses, made proposals for an accommodation; and the other two were so much weakened, that they were induced to accede to it in 1668. At this time the colony first enjoyed a profound peace; which paved the way for its prosperity, and a freedom of trade contributed to secure it. The beaver trade alone continued to be monopolized.

This revolution in affairs excited industry. The former colonists, whose weakness had till then confined them within their settlements, now ventured to extend their plantations, and cultivated them with greater confidence and success. All the soldiers, who consented to settle in this part of the world, obtained their discharge, together with a grant of some property. The officers had lands given them in proportion to their rank. The former settlements were improved; and new ones established, wherever the interest or safety of the colony required it. This spirit and activity occasioned an increase of traffic with the Indians, and revived the intercourse between both continents. This prosperity seemed likely to receive additional advantages from the care taken by the superintendants of the colony, not only to preserve friendship with the neighbouring nations, but likewise to establish peace and harmony among themselves. Not a single act of hostility was committed throughout a tract of four or five hundred leagues; a circumstance, perhaps, unheard of before in North America. It should seem that the French had kindled the war at their arrival, only to extinguish it the more effectually.

But this concord could not continue among people who were always armed for the chase, unless the power that had effected it should preserve it by the superiority of its forces. The Iroquois, finding this precaution was neglected, resumed that restless disposition arising from their love of revenge and dominion. They were, however, careful to continue on good terms with all who were either allies or neighbours to the French. Notwithstanding this moderation, they were told that they