

beautiful woman, and of a superior understanding. She is described by a contemporary as a person of "solid virtue and noble spirit, with all the graces which would charm the highest circles, of rare sagacity, and exquisite modesty." The Marquis de Vaudreuil, at the time of his marriage to Mlle. de Joibert, had been several years in Canada. He had distinguished himself as an officer in the wars of France in Europe, and when he came to Canada it was to assume high command. He was nearly thirty years older than his wife, but their marriage seems to have been a happy one, and in his latter years she was a most valuable assistant to him in his work as governor of Canada. De Vaudreuil aspired to be governor-general as early as 1699, on the death of Frontenac; but he was disappointed in his desire, for M. de Callieres was then made governor. De Vaudreuil, however, received some compensation by being made governor of Montreal. De Callieres died in 1703, and then the claims of de Vaudreuil could not be ignored, and he became governor-general of New France. The chief objection urged against his appointment was the fact that his wife was a native Canadian. It was thought that his connection with a leading Canadian family might prevent him from performing, with strict impartiality, his duties as governor. He continued, however, to be governor until the time of his death, twenty-two years later, and it never appeared that his conduct gave reason to justify those fears which had retarded his promotion. The marchioness de Vaudreuil had no less than twelve children, and she seems to have been an exemplary mother, as well as a true helpmeet of her husband. The time when he was governor of New France was one of much anxiety, for at that period Acadia fell into the hands of the English, and it was already evident that the sparse population of New France, as compared to the English colonies, would soon place French power in America in great danger.

Madame de Vaudreuil sailed for France in 1708, but the vessel in which she took passage was captured by the English. She was, however, treated with distinction, and was allowed to proceed to her destination. She attracted much attention at the Court of Versailles, and became a favorite both of Louis XIV. and of Madame de Maintenon. She remained in France for several years, and did not return to Canada until 1716, her husband having in the meantime gone over for the purpose of escorting her home. Such long separations between husband and wife were then less thought of than they would be now, because it was sometimes necessary for high officials in New France