

overstocked ; for, in 1671 Talon asks that no more girls should be sent out the next year, lest the settlers should not be able to find husbands for their daughters ; and he intimated that, whilst he had asked for 4 or 5 for the officers, they had sent him 15, whom he did not find it easy to dispose of. But it was after all only a temporary glut, for the following year Frontenac asks for more women. This, however, is the last account I have found of an importation of this kind, and at a later period the women were considerably in excess of the men. Even the officers seem to have had no difficulty in finding wives ; for a subsequent Governor, the Marquis de Dénonville, after enumerating the captains whom he has married off, appears to be not a little concerned about some of the younger officers, whom he finds it difficult to restrain from forming connections which may not be altogether palatable to their relations at home.

As far as the increase of the population is concerned, the experiment seems to have been successful ; for the year after the first batch arrived Talon reports 700 births, and says that the bishop anticipated a crop of 1,100 the following year, which is pretty well, considering that four years before, in 1668, the whole population only numbered 5,870. I am afraid, however, that the bishop reckoned his chickens too sanguinely, for in 1674 the census only gave the population at 7,832, which naturally a good deal surprised the authorities at home ; and in 1680 there were only 9,400 in all—404 births and 66 marriages.

The fact of the despatches of this period being so full of such domestic matters is in itself a proof of the comparative tranquillity and prosperity which prevailed. But soon after the Indian troubles recommenced, and war broke out with the English colonies. Canada, however, had now grown out of its infancy : the principal settlements were firmly established, and all the machinery of Government was thoroughly organized ; and as I only undertake to give