

and showed them how they were exploited by the authorities; and as they yielded more and more to their ever impulsive tendencies towards sociability, they sought a form of administration more closely connected with them. The ancient popular belief in the theory of divine right of kings was gradually being dismissed; and, the political doctrines being different from what they used to be, the application of them had to be changed. Authority always remained as a principle of union among the different individuals; but the exercise of that authority gradually tumbled from the hands of one man into the hands of every man, and the fall, although a happy one, was not without pains and uncertainties, renewed hopes and shattered confidence.

In England, where the system of parliamentary government was first discovered and applied, the battle which arose on the question, was fought on the field of principles, and the ammunition was mostly words. And yet, it served to pull down the monarchical prerogative and to lessen the opportunities for a king's despotism. It matters little, however, whether or not the enemies of absolute monarchy were there called Roundheads, low-bred agitators and the like, they insured the triumph of their cause and, to a great extent, although indirectly, the prosperity that our fair Dominion enjoys at the present time.

During the French administration, from the day Cartier landed on Newfoundland to the time of the capitulation, in 1759, the people had practically no say in the ministering of their welfare as a society. At times they enjoyed the right of deliberation; but the Governor had all the authority, and with the Intendant—also a word-bearer and absolute servant of the king—he had the absolute control over military affairs, finance, justice, and in fact everything but religious and ecclesiastical matters. This state of affairs however, was in many more ways than one, reasonable; for, not only did it agree with the customs of the people who were used to look up to monarchy as an absolute power; but it was also a matter of necessity in those days when the colony's existence was always threatened by the adroit and blood-thirsty Indians. The Governor was more a military leader, than an administrator or legislator; he had to have absolute command over all the individuals who were counted upon to make number in the altogether too small military forces.

This should not lead one to believe that as long as the French regime lasted, the Governor was "magister omnipotens" over the citizens. The Governor always remained the representative of an