

of a little river to wait for the artillery and ammunition. The Iroquois, who spent their leisure hours in hunting, flayed all the beasts they caught, and threw their skins into the river a little above the camp. The waters were soon infected. The English, who had not any suspicion of such an instance of treachery, continued unfortunately to drink of the waters that were thus rendered poisonous; in consequence of which, such considerable numbers of them immediately died, that it became necessary to suspend the military operations. But a still more imminent danger threatened Canada, and Montréal of course. A numerous fleet, destined against Quebec, entered the St. Lawrence the following year, and would probably have succeeded, had it reached the place of its destination. But the rashness of the admiral joined to the violence of the elements, was the cause of its being lost in the river. Thus was Canada at once delivered from its fears both by sea and land, and had the glory or good fortune of maintaining itself without succours and without loss, against the strength and policy of the English. But the day of retribution was advancing with rapid strides. France, proud and flourishing under Louis XIV. after having risen with him through the several degrees of glory and grandeur, sank with him through all the periods of decay incident to human nature. After a series of defeats and mortifications this monarch was still happy that he could purchase peace by sacrifices which made his humiliation evident. It is easy to judge how much his pride must have suffered, in giving up to the English Hudson's Bay, Newfoundland, and Acadia, three possessions, which, together with Canada, formed that immense tract of country once so well known by the name of New France.

During the half century which had elapsed from the peace of Utrecht, in 1713, to the period which gave birth to those national disputes which ultimately led to the Conquest of Canada by the British, the City of Montreal experienced that variety of good and bad fortune incident to infant settlements whose sole prosperity depends upon the industry of the inhabitants in pursuit of those commercial objects that lead to individual comfort and general improvement. In the interval between the two last wars, which was the most flourishing period of the City, the exports did not exceed £20,500 in furs and beavers, and £3,230 in wood of all kinds. These articles put together amounted but to £23,730 sterling, a year, a sum insufficient to pay for the commodities sent from the mother-country. The government, however, made up the deficiency. When the French were in possession of Canada, they had very little specie. The little that was brought in from time to time by the new settlers, did not continue to circulate in the country, because the necessitous state of the colony soon occasioned it to return. This was a great obstacle to the progress of commerce in Montreal. In 1670, the court of Versailles coined a particular sort of money for the use of all the French settlements in America, and set a nominal value upon it, one-fourth above the current coin of the mother country. But this expedient was not productive of the advantages that were expected, at least with regard to this country. They therefore contrived to substitute paper currency instead of metal, for the payment of the troops and other expences of government. This succeeded till the year 1713, when the engagements that had been made with the administrators of the colony were not faithfully observed. Their bills of exchange drawn