

seigniors from whom the privilege was exacted. As there was, however, doubt on the point, Haldimand gave instructions for the quantity taken to be measured and receipts given, so that, if the claim could be established, payment could be made. In 1777-8, Cuthbert paid for the seigniories of La Noraye and D'Autray, £1,000. He now claimed as damages, £3,937 10s.

Another grievance was the construction of a bridge in Cuthbert's seignior. In order to improve the communications Haldimand had ordered the erection of bridges at the river du Loup, the Maskinonge and at Berthier. Cuthbert maintained a profitable ferry at the last named river, and he contended that the newly-built bridge was an interference with his rights of property.

Haldimand required merely to send a narrative of the circumstances under which he had acted to vindicate his character; we owe to this circumstance the preservation of many facts, all record of which would otherwise have passed away.

Shelburne was now engaged in the opening negotiations for peace; he wrote accordingly to Haldimand to discontinue all predatory excursions on the frontiers of the revolted provinces. None were to be made. Haldimand was also informed, that all United States prisoners in Great Britain were to be sent back in exchange, and that the same course should be followed in Canada. These letters were received by Haldimand in July.

The whole summer was passed in Canada in expectation of an invasion. Cornwallis' surrender was regarded as the forerunner of active operations against the province. What increased the doubt regarding the sentiments of the French Canadians was the report industriously circulated, that the pope had absolved them from their oath of allegiance to Great Britain, if they would return to the government of France. The United States congress had issued proclamations promising pardon to all loyalists who would accept the new constitution. On all sides the reports were of a character