

By a commission dated the 7th December, 1763, Murray was appointed Captain General and Governor in Chief of the Province of Quebec. (1)

According to the instructions transmitted to him, Murray was to be assisted in the government of the colony by a council composed of the Lieutenant-Governors of Montreal and Three Rivers, the Chief Justice of the province, the inspector of customs in America and eight other persons whom he was to choose among the most prominent subjects of the country. The members of this Council were to take the oath of supremacy and abjuration of the authority of the Pope. In consequence of this oath, Catholics were excluded from the Council.

Murray was soon to find himself confronted with insurmountable difficulties. Noble and generous in character, he loved the Canadians whom he had known as brave soldiers in the hour of battle and whom he now regarded as mild mannered and simple peasants. An aristocrat himself, he had gradually drawn closer to the nobles of the old regime and had found among them sincere friends and valuable aids. In the same way, the military officers, who had shared the fortunes of Wolfe, had formed intimate social relations with the seigniors and the former Canadian functionaries, and marriages contracted between these two elements had attached them more strongly to each other.

It is not surprising therefore that Murray and the British army officers should have shown themselves sympathetic towards the Canadian aristocracy and kindly towards the country folk; nor is it surprising that, for this very reason, the Governor should have alienated the English merchants who, on the morrow of the conquest, had invaded the country. Among these merchants were some from the New England States, and others from London, Scotland and Ireland following in the wake of the army. (2).

The narrowmindedness of these traders contrasted strikingly with the rather kindly tone of the military.

Murray treated them as adventurers, as people of little education, (3) He characterized them as: "licentious fanatics whom nothing would satisfy but the expulsion of the Canadians, who are perhaps the bravest and the best race upon the globe, a race who, could they be indulged with a few privileges which the Laws of England deny to Roman Catholics at home, would soon get the better of every national antipathy to their conquerors and become the most faithful and most useful set of men in the American empire." (4)

Of course, among those merchants there were persons who did not deserve the epithets applied to them by Murray; it is certain, however,

---

(1) Const. Doc. (1759-1791), p. 126.

(2) Carleton to Shelburne, 25th November, 1767. Const. Doc. (1759-1791), p. 198. Also *Considerations* by Baron Maslès, London, 1765. Const. Doc. (1759-1791), p. 179. Also report of Advocate-General Marriot, on a Code of Laws for the Province of Quebec, London, 1774. Const. Doc. (1759-1791), p. 310.

(3) Letter from Murray written on his return to England in 1766.

(4) Governor Murray to Lords of Trade 29th October, 1764. Const. Doc. (1759-1791), p. 167.