

an orange ribbon from about the neck of the shield of the province, described above.

In the charter of government of the province by Charles I representation was had in a council of the great proprietors and baronets.

Of the 150 briefs for creation, over 10 had actual domains recorded in the 100, of "General Register of Sasines" at Edinburgh, and of these 24 reported as actually coming to the province with intention of making attempts at doing the demands in their territorial grant. Among the most prominent of these were Alexander, son of the Earl of Stirling, who founded the town of Grenville, opposite Annapolis, in Nova Scotia, and Sir John Gordon.

Affairs might have prospered exceedingly well for this royal province of Scotland whose patents declared it as a fief of the crown of that country, had not the French, who had been crowded out of it, made so great complaint that Richelieu in 1632 by the treaty of St. Germain en Laye persuaded Charles I to cede the province back again to France.

Some of the Scottish settlers remained however, and the French family of Melancon, which became prominent afterwards and possessed the Seigneurie of LaVerdure, intermarrying with an heiress of the La Tours and de Chainssays, is said to derive its origin from one of these. But its name is an evidence of belief that this family is derived from the Melanths.

CHAPTER III.

FEUDAL FIEFS IN ACADIA.

True to the principle involved in the feudal system, government was localized in Canada by being commissioned to those only who had territorial grants in the country. These concessions or grants were in every sense noble and carried with them in their commissions the right of hereditary sovereignty over the territory described in the grant, which the possessor held in fealty direct from the King, according to the regulations of the duchy of France prescribed for feudal tenure in the customs of Paris.

During the colonization period, that is before 1663, Canada had no unified system of provincial government. The country, with Acadia was a collection of lordships, each independent of the other, under its own lord, or seigneur, who recognized no superior but the King, his suzerain; especially was this the case in Acadia, where the entire country embracing tens of thousands of square miles had been granted to three families, whose princely prerogatives and conflicting ambitions caused them to turn their arms against each other. The most celebrated of these conflicts and of the longest duration, both by sea and land, was between the La Tours and the de Char-nissays, and has been made famous in poetry and romance. It arose about a dispute over the sovereignty of Western Acadia.

It seems that in 1632 when Acadia was restored to France by the treaty of Breda that the King of France conceded it in three principalities to the Count Isaac de Razilli and Claude de St. Etienne de La Tour, and the Viconte Nicolas Denys de Fronsac. It seems that the La Tours had established a fortified post called Fort St. Jean at the mouth of the St. John River, in what is now New Brunswick. But all this country from beyond the Penobscot River to what is now Annapolis, Nova Scotia (anciently Port Royal) was given to de Razilli and to St. Etienne de La Tour was conceded the territory from Port Royal to Cape Breton. To Denys de Fronsac was granted Cape Breton and the district of the main land known as Gaspasie.

The Count de Razilli made an agreement with La Tour by means of which they exchanged their respective territories, so that La Tour continued to possess Western Acadia from the Penobscot to Port Royal.

Razilli had been commissioned the superior or King's governor. He was an admiral of France and a Knight of Malta. He was renowned for his exploits in foreign seas. His father was the Marquis de Razilli, and the family traced through the noblest of chevalier alliances to beyond the days of the crusaders. While de Razilli lived, there was peace and prosperity in Acadia. He and Denys de Fronsac established stations for fur trading and sedentary fishing in company at Le Heve and in Cape Breton.