



RUINS OF OLD FORT ERIE, ON THE NIAGARA FRONTIER.

Is it not worthy of remark that the idea carried into execution by Talon, of commercial relations between the West India Islands and New France, should be again taken up after a lapse of over two centuries by the Government of Canada?

Colbert sought the encouragement not only of commerce, but also of industries in the colony, as we learn from his instructions; and we also learn from the correspondence of the Mother de l'Incarnation that Talon saw that the Minister's orders were obeyed. "He orders," she wrote, "that hemp should be raised and linens and serges manufactured; this is already commenced, and will grow little by little. Women and girls are urged to acquire the art of spinning."

The *Relations des Jésuites de 1669* inform us of the establishment of manufactures. We there read: "Truly a country is not complete without the aid of manufactures; we see that boots and shoes and headgear are already being made, the linen and leather industries are also in contemplation, and it is expected that by the rapid increase in sheep, wool will soon be produced for the establishment of a cloth factory."

Finally Talon erected a market hall and a tannery in the Lower Town of Quebec, for the convenience of the inhabitants of the town and adjacent country.

Colbert, who watched with solicitude over the material and moral well-being of the inhabitants of New France, had not failed to notice the complaints of Mgr. de Laval, concerning the intemperance of the colonists and the Indians, and he wrote to Talon representing the importance of establishing a brewery at Quebec. The Sovereign Council having had communication of this representation, ordained by *arret* of the 3rd March, 1668, that when a brewery should have been established, no more than 1200 casks of liquors should be imported, whereof two-thirds to be wine and one third of brandy. Talon himself built a brewery, which he sold to the Government in 1684, and which was afterwards transformed into a palace for the Intendant. Buildings, like books, have their destiny, *habent sua fata . . . monumenta*, as the late M. Chauveau has written in connection with this edifice. The palace was destroyed during the

seige of Quebec by Arnold in 1775, and upon its ruins there is built to-day Boswell's brewery, where may still be seen the vaults constructed in 1668. Talon returned to France in 1672, never again to revisit the colony. Louis XIV., wishing to reward him for his signal services, erected his domain of des Islets at Charlesbourg, near Quebec, into a barony, and later, in 1675, into an earldom, entitled D'Orsainville. This domain was afterwards sold by his nephew and heir, himself having remained unmarried, to the General Hospital, which is still its owner.

With regard to his character and qualities, "he had," says Mother Juchereau, "a special talent for distributing the King's bounties in a noble and disinterested manner, which charmed the recipient as much as the gift itself; in one word we can say of him, when compared with his successors, *non est imbutus simili illi*—he has not had his equal."

He left regretted by all, so much good had he done to all classes of persons. He was a man of great piety, having every confidence in divine Providence, to whom he attributed all his success. He enquired with paternal solicitude in what way he could assist the inhabitants. "For this purpose," says Mother Juchereau, "he went into the minutest details, he received the farmers at his own residence, frequently visited them at their homes, enquiring what crop each one raised, found good sales for those having wheat to dispose of, assisted those who had none, and brought encouragement to all."

What was the date of Talon's death, and where do his ashes repose? This I have been unable to learn, although I have made much research on the subject.

This admirable Intendant holds in the history of Canada a prominent place, and is rightly considered one of the most distinguished of the rulers of New France. In truth, this able statesman possessed not only a highly cultivated but also a very practical mind, as well as clear-sightedness and sound judgment, indispensable qualities to the establishment of a colony upon a solid and durable basis, and it is owing to the impetus given by him that New France has continued

to grow and prosper. And while Quebec is contemplating a monument to Champlain, its founder, it would not be inopportune to consider the propriety of commemorating in some fitting manner the virtues and greatness of the Intendant, Jean Talon.

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### Cricket Curios.

Many stories have been told of big hits; but I think the following is a laughable instance, though the runs scored may not have been so many as one would expect. In a local match in Yorkshire, some five years ago, one of the team opposing the local eleven was Captain C—, of I Zingari fame.

He had a huge St. Bernard dog, which followed him about everywhere. In fact, when the match began, the dog had to be chained up to a post in a corner of the field.

By-and-by Captain C— came to the wickets. He was a "slashing" hitter, and soon made a tremendous off-drive, sending the ball to the most distant corner of the field, and just within the radius of the big dog's chain, and the animal calmly took the ball in his mouth and quietly lay down. The fielder was speeding wildly after the ball, and it was laughable to see the sudden halt and change of expression as the dog took possession of the ball. Captain C— saw what happened, and kept yelling, as loud as laughter would let him: "Good old fellow! Hold it, Roy! Hold it tight, Roy!" The batters kept running, and half the field surrounded the dog with cajoling expressions, but the dog just sat and looked at them with the ball in his mouth, and said never a word. He did not look wicked, certainly; but then he was so wickedly big that the fielders kept their distance. At last Captain C— had to lie down and laugh—they had run twelve—and finally came over, and the dog gravely laid the ball at his feet. He—the Captain—said the dog was too foolishly good-natured and quiet to hurt any one, and that if one of them had spoken sternly to the beast he would have let the ball go. But I don't think he was believed.—*Ex.*