

For those readers who may not be familiar with the term "Intendant" or "Intendant's Palace," and the character or the duties appertaining to that dignified office, the following remarks are with much deference submitted on that head from historical and reliable sources. His duties combined those of administration, direction, management, superintendence, &c., and next to that of Governor General, the office of Intendant was looked upon as one of the greatest importance and celebrity in Quebec. It was first established by the proclamation of the French King, Louis the XIV., in 1663, thereby creating a Supreme or Sovereign Council (*Conseil Supérieur*), for the affairs of the Colony, composed of the Governor General, the Bishop, the Intendant and four Councillors, with an Attorney General and Chief Clerk. The number of Councillors was afterwards increased to twelve. The authority of the Intendant, except in matters purely executive, was, indeed, little inferior to that of the Governor himself.

He had the superintendence of four departments, viz., of justice, police, finance and marine. The first Intendant named under the proclamation of 1663 was M. Robert, who, however, never came to Canada to assume the duties of his appointment, and it was not till the summer of 1665 that Jean de Talon, the first *bona fide* Intendant, arrived at Quebec, with the viceroy, Marquis de Tracy, and the famous Regiment of Carignan. From the examination of old plans and information afforded by l'Abbé Tanguay, of the Census Department, it would appear the Sovereign Council first held their meetings in a very modest building standing on the south side of Fabrique street, a little to the west of the Jesuit College, known at that time as the "Treasury."

During the incumbency, or official career, of the fourth Intendant M. de Meulles, in 1684, that gentleman endowed at his own expense, the eastern portion of the St. Roch's Suburbs with an edifice known as "*le Palais*" (the Intendant's Palace), remarkable for its magnificence, extent and general appearance. The endowment also included, as shown upon old plans, about ten acres of land contained between the alignments of St. Rochs and St. Nicholas streets, to the River St. Charles in front, and in rear by the cliff, on the present line of St. Valier street. This ground was laid out and embellished in walks and ornamental gardens, &c.

In 1712, M. Bégon, the eighth Intendant, arrived at Quebec, with a splendid equipage and retinue from France, taking up his abode in "*le Palais*," which unfortunately on the 5th January following, 1713, was destroyed by fire, and such was the rapidity of the flames that the Intendant and his wife barely escaped with their lives. Madame Bégon was obliged to break the panes of glass in her apartment before she had power to breathe. Two young ladies, her attendants, perished in the flames. The Intendant's valet anxious to save some of his master's wardrobe, also perished in the flames. His secretary running barefooted for his life towards the river in front, was so badly frozen, that he died a few days afterwards in the hospital of the Hotel-Dieu.*

The Palace was afterwards rebuilt at the expense of His Majesty, under the direction of M. Bégon, whether in the same style and character of the first structure has not to my knowledge been ascertained. There can be no doubt but the plan and elevation of *le vieux Palais*, now presented, are a faithful illustration of that restored, or rebuilt, under M. Bégon, and destroyed in 1775. The exterior entrance appears to have been from that side, next the cliff, under the "*Arsenal*," on the present line of St. Valier street, flanked on either side by the King's stores, magazines, &c., and behind that stood a large building known as the "*Prison*."

If as described by *La Potherie*, in 1698, the former building and accessories resembled a little town in itself, the remark would seem equally to apply, and perhaps with still greater force, to the group put up after the fire of 1713, as no less than about twenty in number (some of large capacity) are shewn on some of the old plans made before and after the surrender of Quebec in 1759. According to perspective drawings by a naval artist, an officer of the fleet accompanying Wolfe's expedition, and published in London 1761, of and from other sources, especially in the original of the plan now presented, there remains little doubt for want accommodation elsewhere; but the Old Palace was occupied by the troops of the garrison under General Murray, and continued to be used as barracks for officers and men until its destruction by the guns from the ramparts in 1775. This assumption is strengthened if not con-

* Vide notes, 2nd Volume du Dictionnaire Généalogique, par l'Abbé Tanguay.

firmed by the occupation of the Jesuit College as barracks immediately afterwards in 1776. The extent of accommodation for troops in the one building, would be nearly equal to that in the other, viz., about a regiment hence, the comfortable quarters in *le Palais* taken up by the insurgent force under Benedict Arnold, which would accommodate the whole of his men.

In its general aspect this once celebrated structure was more imposing from its great extent than from any claim to ornate embellishments or architectural design. The style appears to be the French domestic of that period, two clear stories in height and a basement. The extreme length of frontage is 260 feet, with projecting wings of 20 feet at either end (*vide plan*); the breadth from the front of wings to the rear line is 75 feet, and the central part 58 feet. The entire height of the façade, from the ground line to the apex of roof, is about 55 feet, and from the same to the eaves line about 33 feet. In the basement there were no less than 9 vaults, 10 feet high to the crown of the arch, along the whole front as shewn on the plan. The apartments in the two stories, it will be seen, are divided longitudinally by a wall from one end of the building to the other, consisting altogether of about 40 in number, out of which, according to the original drawing, 25 are numbered as barrack-rooms for the occupation of troops.

The entire roof is plain and steep, and only broken by the pedimented wings at either end of the building, with chimney stacks and stone coping over the transverse fire-walls and further relieved in the centre by a graceful octagonal cupola of two sections and a tapering spire. The approach in front is by two flights of steps through a porch forming a conspicuous feature to the main entrance. The arched windows of the basement rise considerably above the site level, adding beauty to the front. The walls of the whole structure were substantially built of the black slate rock peculiar to Quebec, always subject, however, to more or less decay, when exposed either to the action of extreme heat, or the severity of a Canadian climate, as shown to some extent in the present case, but only to some extent, judging from the tenacity and hardness of the material still remaining. It is quite evident, in accordance with the practice of those days, that much time and labour, even to tediousness were bestowed in the erection of these walls, specimens of which are still in existence elsewhere. The process was to build in *dry masonry* a few feet at a time, generally about two feet, then grouted with a thin semifluid mortar composed of quick lime and fine sand poured into the interstices of the stone work, filling every cavity, excluding the air, and left to dry before commencing the next course. Some of the drest stone at the quoins and angles appear to have been brought from *Pointe-aux-Trembles*, and some, probably, from the limestone quarries at Beauport. The window and door jambs were faced with a peculiar hard species of brick only *one and a half inches* in thickness, of a dark flinty texture, combining in large proportions silica and oxide of iron, and nothing the worse in appearance for the wear and tear of nearly two hundred years. These in size and quality very much resemble *Flemish bricks* and must have been imported directly from France.

The large store houses fronting the cliff were undoubtedly built in the same compact manner as the walls of "*le Palais*." Mr. Boswell some years since in excavating the foundation of his brewery on the site of these "store houses," encountered some of the old walls, and found them so hard that powder had to be used for blasting. The mortar was harder than concrete or stone itself, and a drill had but little effect in boring it. Portions of these old walls and vaults in the brewery are still in good preservation. Mr. Boswell for many years past has been the lessee of the War Department for the site of "*le Palais*" ruins, &c.; he has had them covered in several times with a temporary roof and improved the premises generally at his own expense. There was an old story current for many years of the existence of *very deep* and extensive vaults underneath these old buildings, and subterranean passages, the one leading to the river northward and the other in an opposite direction to the Upper Town. It is highly probable that the remains of the old vaults and passages found in the excavations for the brewery have been the origin of this story. In the one case such a passage towards the river would be flooded at high water, and in the other obstructed by a rampart of solid rock.

For nearly a hundred years from its destruction in 1775 the remains of *le Vieux Palais*—land and premises known as the "King's Wood Yard." would seem to have been in the continued occupation of the military authorities. The extent of land during this time was much reduced by the sale of building lots on the lines of St. Valier and St. Nicholas streets, and in or