

of cultured voices softened by the rustling silks, the *frou frou* so suggestive to gallant ears; where he has watched the moonlight coming and going through the swaying branches of the stately trees, or silvering the spray that falls in showers about the hundred fountains of the Trianon.

With a sigh of regret he turns again towards the Council table, and in a few minutes the Sovereign Council of New France is in session. The Governor presides, and in the minutes he is given all his titles, namely: "Hault et puissant Seigneur M. Louis de Buade Frontenac, Chevalier Comte de Palluan, Conseiller du Roy en ses Conseils, Gouverneur et Lieutenant Général pour Sa Majesté en Canada, Acadie, Isle de Terre-neuf et autres pais de la France Septentrionale." The other councillors are Messrs Tilly, Damours, Dupont de Peyras, de Vitray and the representative of the attorney-general is also present.

The council has on this occasion met as the Court of Superior jurisdiction in criminal matters. Three prisoners are before it, all members of the crew of the ship "le prince Marriel" then in the port of Quebec; they are Ouannot Etchigaré, chief steward, Joannis de Clannet, a sailor, and Jean Duhalde, the captain, all accused of participation in the murder of Simon Baston, a merchant of Rochelle. When the Council has been formally opened, the crown prosecutor lays on the table, with much ceremony, a bulky record of the proceedings which have already taken place. Referring to these papers he relates the circumstances of the case, showing that on the 23rd of August, 1673, the prisoners had been arraigned before the Governor and examined by him, the result, whether admissions or negations, being carefully recorded. Upon this the Governor had issued a commission to Tilly, the senior councillor, with power to continue the investigations of the case; and the prosecutor now reads the results of this enquiry, with tedious details of the days upon which the commissioner held his investigation, and the facts elicited upon each occasion, to mention all of which would force us to exceed the space allotted by the editors. After due deliberation the council pronounced the following judgment, which is not without interest as showing the condition of this country at that time, and which may be thus translated:—"The council has decreed that Ouannot Etchigaré and Joannis de Clannet shall be sent, with the papers of record, before the Court of Admiralty at Rochelle, that the facts may be more fully verified, either from their own statements, or by the evidence of Martecot Pansola, of Cranston, near Bayonne, captain of a ship that was this year on a fishing voyage at Gaspé; or of Miel Sales, of Bibart, between St. John du Laz and Bayonne, surgeon of the said ship; or of the Captains Joannis Hiriart et Cazenault, who also made fishing voyages this year to Percée Island; and other evidence which may be more readily obtained and understood at the said Admiralty Court than in this Council, seeing the difficulty of finding here reliable interpreters who are sufficiently familiar with the Basque language. That the said case be finally tried before the said Admiralty Court, to which end the said Etchigaré and de Clannet shall be handed over to some of the captains of the vessels at present in the harbour, who shall be charged, one with

each, to carry and deliver them without delay to the said Admiralty Court, which they shall do under penalty of answering in their own persons for default, and they shall receive the certificate of the said Admiralty Court and bring or send the same back to this Council, and be thus discharged; and as for the said Duhalde, he shall present himself before the said Admiralty Court immediately on his arrival at Rochelle; costs finally reserved."

Now I have selected a case at haphazard and from those reported in the judgments of the Sovereign Council, and even this case indicates many interesting topics for research. What was the model or the origin of the Sovereign Council in New France? Whence came the Basque fishermen who seem to have annually swarmed to the fishing grounds of the St. Lawrence? What was the value of the fisheries at this early date? What did these vessels bring to Canada? We find the judicial system apparently well organized and the pomp and circumstance of the court room carefully observed, and all this on the grand old rock of Quebec, a single point on the vast wilderness untrudged save by savages and the Jesuit missionaries who sought to baptize and convert them, or the wild *coureurs du bois*, lured into the forests by the rich spoils of the chase and the lawless freedom of the wigwams. Our early history certainly is full of the most startling and picturesque contrasts, and offers an attractive field of work from many points of view.

THE PAN MAGILLIAN GAMES.

(TRANSLATED BY REQUEST.)

CCV.—Now, I have not aforetime told of the tribes of the *Magilloi*, who live amid the barbarian *Kanadii*, whose tyrant is a mighty man called *Doson*; and him the *Magilloi* name with their wonted irony, for by name he is the giver, yet he gives not but begs.

Now, the *Magilloi* are separated into tribes, of whom the number is five. The *Artoi*, whose tyrant is one *Patos Donides*, who weareth little round brightnesses on his eyes and maketh mighty noises in his throat, so that he keepeth his tribe, which are turbulent, in subjection. And the tyrant of the tribe of the *Skienti* is one *Boeioi*, for he is like an ox, mighty in body. Now, those of the *Medicoi* and *Gheoloknoi* I know not, and these last are well termed "Shunners of Hades." Howbeit, the *Medicoi* regard not Hades nor yet fear man nor *Zeus*. For they arm themselves with the bones of the dead and fight valiantly, singly or by tribes, when *selene* shines against the *Bactrophoroi*, or club-bearers, who inhabit the chief city of the *Kanadii*.

CCVI.—Now, it would seem fitting that I should speak of the great gathering in autumn at the Pan Magillian games. And for that I say these games are in autumn, let no man think *Helios* shines and *Zephyros* blows, as is wont in *Hellas*. For here *Helios* shines brightly in summer, but in autumn is *Boreas* and snow and much rain. But how the *Magillians* scorn cold and *Boreas* one may know from many things. Not only considering how they fight in autumn by fifteens, clad only in a tunic until their