

Present, of 20 livres to every couple that is married, if the man (or rather boy) is under 20 and the girl under 16 ; and parents are to be subject to a fine who do not marry off their children before those ages. There is also to be an annual pension of 300 livres to every person who has a family of 10 living children, and of 400 if he has 12 or more ; and there are to be certain honours and trusts to the principal inhabitants of the parishes and villages, with precedence in the churches and elsewhere ; and for these honourable situations the men with the largest families are to be preferred. As the natural supply of wives was deficient (for the census of 1667 shews that there were only 55 unmarried girls above 14), cargoes of the article were sent out ; and it may be interesting to preserve the record that a certain Mademoiselle Ettienne appears to have been the Miss Rye of that day. In 1670 the Intendant Talon reports that out of 165 sent out the year before only 15 remained on hand, and they were engaged, but distributed amongst the other families until their destined husbands could support them. He asks for 150 to 200 more, but strongly recommends that those sent out shall not be naturally deformed, or have anything exteriorly repulsive in their personal appearance ; from which I conclude that the last batch was not exactly a fair sample of *la belle France*. Perhaps it was partly for this reason that it was found necessary to use stringent measures to get the *coureurs de bois* to marry ; for Talon, in a *mémoire* of that date, proposes that all bachelors shall be excluded from trade, and from the honours of the church and the *communauté*, who do not marry within 15 days after the ships come in ; and he asks for authority to take stronger measures still with them. He also suggests that a few girls of good birth, and distinguished for their accomplishments, shall be sent out for the benefit of the young officers, whom it is desirable to induce to settle in the country. We do not hear what the total number of the second importation was, but it would appear that the market had been somewhat