

Vaillant their Attorney, presented a Petition to Monsr. De Calliere and Monsr. Bochart the Governor and Intendant of Canada, in which they stated, that the King of France had granted Sillery to the Christian Indians in 1651, who had however abandoned it for ten or twelve years then last past, and had fixed themselves elsewhere ; that they had abandoned it, because the Land was entirely worn out, and because having cut firewood upon the spot for upwards of 40 years, what remained, was then very far removed from their habitations.—For these reasons they (the Jesuits) prayed a grant of Sillery of which they observed, they had always been in possession as Administrators of the Property of the Indians.

What evidence was submitted to the Governor and Intendant to support the allegations of this Petition, does not appear, but it seems they were satisfied they were true, for by Letters Patent of the 23d of October 1699, they granted to the Jesuits the Seigneurie of Sillery to hold in their own right and to their own use.—The Patent recites as motives for the grant, the facts set forth in the Petition, and observes that the Governor and Intendant were apprised of the good intentions of the Jesuits, of the great spiritual succours which they had given to the Indians, and of the enormous expenses which they had incurred to support the different Missions which they had established, particularly that at Sillery.—It further adds, that after the Indians abandoned Sillery, the Jesuits had at their own expence purchased for them different tracts of Land in various parts of the Country, on which they were now settled and that without this assistance, the Indians inevitably must have been dispersed, and have lost the benefit of the Christian Religion.

This second grant of Sillery was ratified and confirmed by the French King on the 6th May 1702, and enregistered in the Supreme Council at Quebec on the 2d July 1703.

Under this grant the Jesuits took immediate possession of Sillery, and as they have remained in possession ever since, I am necessarily of opinion that their title is good against the pretensions of the Indians.

As to the Fief of St. Gabriel, I cannot find the smallest ground for the claim made by the Hurons.

The whole was originally granted by Letters Patent, dated the 16th of April 1647, to the Sieur Robert Giffard, and the part possessed by the Jesuits, which is that claimed by the Indians, was by Giffard and his wife, (Marie Reuonard) given to the Jesuits by Deed of Donation, passed before Paul Vachon, Notary, on the 2d November 1667, and it was afterwards regularly confirmed to the Jesuits by the French King's " Letters d'amortissement."