

A comparatively large proportion of the correspondence relates to Indian affairs; but the Indian war, led by Pontiac, is only hinted at in this correspondence, and that on account of a force of Canadian Militia being raised to co-operate with the forces to the southward, there being peace with the Indians in the Province of Quebec. Numerous details of the Pontiac war will be found in the calendar of the Bouquet Papers, published in the report on Archives for 1889.

Scattered throughout the volumes are documents of a most important character relating to ecclesiastical affairs; the selection of Bishops; the admission of priests from Europe; the claims on the Jesuit Estates. In the series of volumes beginning at 50—A and continuing to 50—H, there is a complete report on the property of the Jesuits, the result of an investigation arising out of the grant of the estates to Lord Amherst, the first Governor of Canada after the conquest.

General Murray, who was Lieutenant Governor at Quebec, had by no means an enviable position. It is clear, from the correspondence, that from the beginning he and the new settlers, the old subjects as they were called, were at almost complete variance. How far Murray's sweeping charges against them are strictly true is, from this consideration, open to doubt. The charges made by them against Murray, and which led to his recall, are as bitter against him as his were against them, and the probability is that allowance must be made on both sides for exaggerations arising from a heated state of feeling. But this, taken with the addresses to Murray by the seigniors and leading men among the French Canadians, and the memorial by them to the King for his restoration to office, contradict, to a considerable extent, the charges of injustice towards the French inhabitants under the military regime which continued from 1760 to 1764, during which General Murray maintained an active supervision in the Government of Quebec over the proceedings of the military courts, and Gage had joined to them in the government of Montreal a certain number of the French Canadian captains of militia, who shared in the administration of justice in the five districts and city into which the government of Montreal was divided. In these courts sittings were held every fortnight, at which civil cases were decided according to the laws and customs of the country. General Gage, in writing to General Amherst in 1762, says:—"I feel the highest satisfaction that I am able to inform you that during my command in this government I have made it my constant care and attention that the Canadians should be treated agreeable to His Majesty's kind and humane intentions. No invasion on the properties or insult on their persons has gone unpunished. All reproaches on their subjection by the fate of arms, revilings on their customs or country, and all reflections on their religion have been discountenanced and forbid. No distinction has been made between the Briton and Canadian, but equally regarded as subjects of the same Prince. The soldiers live peaceably with the inhabitants and they reciprocally acquire an affection for each other. I have, notwithstanding, made known His Majesty's pleasure on these particulars to the several commanders of corps, that every individual may be acquainted therewith, which will, no doubt, add the greatest weight to the orders and directions which have been already given. And you may be assured that troops who have ever shown the most ardent desire to advance the interest of their Sovereign, and paid the most exact obedience to his commands will vie with each other in brotherly love and affection to the Canadians over whom His Majesty has extended his royal favour and protection."