

January 1563, commonly called the ordinance of Ronsillon ; (1) another of the same Monarch, of February 1566, commonly called the ordinance of Moulins ; (2) one of Henry the III. of May 1579, commonly called the ordinance of Blois. (3) The celebrated edict of April 1598, commonly called the edict of Nantes, (4) and that of Louis the XIII. of January 1629, better known by the names of Code Michaud and code Marillac, (5) are the principal ordinances enacted before the erection of the Sovereign Council of Quebec. (6)

THE ordinance of January 1629, which is one of the most extensive and best digested, was enregistered in a "*Lit de Justice*," held in the parliament of Paris, on the 15th January, 1629. It was compiled by Michel de Marillac, then keeper of the seals, by order of Cardinal De Richelieu, and was, at first, received with great approbation, which it well merits. But on the death of the Marechal de Marillac, who was brought to the scaffold by the Cardinal, the seals were taken from his brother, Michel, who was imprisoned, and died of a broken heart in the Castle of Chateaudrin in 1632.

THE disgrace of Michel de Marillac affected the credit of the Ordinance of which he was known to be the author. It fell into general disrepute, and, certainly, for a period was not cited in the Parliament of Paris. There were, however, even during that period, some Jurisdictions which continued to receive it, and in which it was quoted and admitted to be Law, particularly the Parliament of Dijon, and by some writers it is asserted, that it was finally received as such in all (7). But by others this is denied, and the Ordinance is, by them, said to have become obsolete. *Non mihi licet tantas componere Lites.*

MUCH of the Ecclesiastical Law of France, as it stood at the erection of the Sovereign Council of Quebec, is contain-

(1) Neron, vol. 1st. p. 424.

(2) Neron, vol. 1st. p. 444.

(3) Neron, vol. 1st. p. 508.

(4) Neron, vol. 2d. p. 921.

(5) Neron, vol. 1st. p. 782.—Répertoire, verb "Code Michaud."

(6) Vide Dietr. de Jurispr. vol. 3d. p. 39—Répert. verb "Ordonnance," vol. 43, p. 470—Dénizart, verb "Ordonnances."

(7) Journ. d. Aud. vol. 4th, p. 486—Dietr. de Jurispr. vol. 3. p. 44—Dénizart, verb "Parlements," No. 25—L. C. Dénizart, vol. 4, p. 586, case of the Princess of Carignan, an. 1748—L. C. Dénizart, vol. 9th, p. 761—Répertoire, 8vo. vol. 11th, p. 431 to 434—Encyclopédie Méthodique de Jurisprudence, vol. 2d. p. 692—L. C. Dénizart, vol. 1st. p. 184, sec. 4, No. 3.