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votion to the material advance of the colony which was, indeed, his especial charge. The dispute was over the sale of alcoholic liquors to the Indians. Because of its inebriating effect upon the redskins. Bishop Bosquet, who was then intrusted with the cure of souls in New France, forbade the faithful to engage in the trade. Hocquart had no enmity to the church. He did not deny for a moment that the use of spirits led to regrettable excesses on the part of the savages. But, he reasoned, if the Indian cannot get liquors from us, he will buy from the English colonies to the south; our traders will be impoverished and the English enriched, while the political influence of the English over the redskins will be strengthened. Therefore he was opposed to the bishop's self-denying ordinance on behalf of his French fellow-settlers. If the Indians were to get drunk anyway, the French might better have the pecuniary and political profit out of it than the English. In this contest Hocquart eventually won. The dispute was at length

referred to France, where the bishop was persuaded to interpret his ruling in such a way as not to interfere with regular trade.

Hocquart's interest in the archives of the colony was aroused at the very opening of his career in office. In the very year of his appointment, on the fifth of August, 1731, he wrote this appeal home to the Government at Paris:

"Quebec, 5e, 8er, 1731.

"My Lord,—It has frequently been represented to me since my arrival in Canada, that the minutes of the notarial deeds, the registers of the Superior Council and of the *Prévosté* are exposed to risk from fire in the private houses of the clerks, where such minutes and registers are now deposited, and that the titles of all individuals in this colony might be destroyed. These representations appeared to me, my Lord, so important that I thought it my duty to acquaint you with them, and to propose to you, for the sake of public security, to have a fireproof building erected to contain all papers. I find no place more suitable for the construction of such a building than the courtyard of the *Palais*. I got Mr. DeLéry to make a plan and an estimate of the cost, which I annex to this letter, amounting to 9,941 l.