

a close, or rather succeeded by a hollow truce, than the tide of discovery, which had been pent up, spread over the whole continent, and in a very few years extended to the North Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and almost to the Rocky Mountains. Much of this difference must no doubt be ascribed to the facilities afforded by our immense chain of Lakes and Rivers, and to the character of the Indians with whom the French were brought into contact, for they never made any progress in the direction of the warlike Iroquois. Something may also be due to the missionary spirit of the Jesuits and Recollets, who penetrated in spite of dangers and privations to every tribe where there was a chance of propagating the faith, and something to the ambition of their home government, which prompted to the acquisition of new territory, whilst the British colonies were left very much to themselves. But much is still to be attributed to the national character of the settlers. The Englishman, grave and earnest, settled himself at once on his farm, and devoted any leisure he could spare to framing laws for the government of the society which surrounded him, and to enforcing them with the stringency of a man, who having strong convictions himself, is very intolerant of any body who deviates from his notion of right. He was essentially a member of a community, and rarely pushed beyond reach of his neighbours, until lack of space compelled the hive to give off a swarm. The Frenchman on the contrary, with characteristic impetuosity, leaving the cares of state to the Governor or Intendant, and questions of religion to his priest, plunged at once into the excitement and adventure which, in spite of its hardships, give such an irresistible charm to a half savage life. We find constant endeavours to check this tendency of the population to wander, and edicts which forbid the colonists, even on pain of death, to pursue their hunting excursions for more than a league beyond the settlements. But nature is stronger than laws, and the *coureurs des bois* were to be found everywhere, and often no doubt where no record of their adventures has been preserved. Only six years after Champlain's expedition, at the time when Quebec could only count fifty inhabitants, we find Sagard, whilst a missionary amongst the Hurons on Lake Simcoe, saying, that the only meat he had tasted for six months was given him by a party of French hunters. If the Celt has marked his progress on this continent by that dash and *elan* which characterizes him as a soldier, but cannot always resist long continued obstacles, the Anglo-Saxon has equally exhibited the invincible tenacity, which enables him to advance step by step in spite of difficulties, and keep what he gains.

One other remark has been suggested by these enquiries, viz., the extraordinary mutability of nations in the savage state, and the rapidity