

prior to the Conquest. Such as Dauphin Lake, Dauphin Mountains; Fort Bourbon, on the Saskatchewan, near the west end of Cedar Lake. The most remote of the French settlements on the Saskatchewan appears to have been, "at Nipawee, in lat. $53\frac{1}{2}$ long. 103."*

When we consider these great enterprises in connection with the population of Canada at the time, we cannot fail to be astonished at the energy of the French colonists, and the desire they exhibited to extend their empire even to the frozen North, and to secure the overland trade with Hudson's Bay and the far unknown west—even to "South Seas."

During the period when they were undertaken, the population of Canada from 1666 to 1738† was as follow:—

1666	.....	{	3418—total population.
		{	1344—men bearing arms.
1667	.....	{	4312—total population.
		{	1566—men capable of bearing arms.
1668	.....	{	5870—total population.
		{	2000—men capable of bearing arms.
1679	.....		9400—total population.
1685	.....	{	17,100—French inhabitants, men, women,
		{	and children.
		{	3000—men capable of bearing arms.
1738	.....	{	45,000—population: the year M. de la
		{	Verandère was sent overland to
			discover the Pacific Ocean.

At the period of which we write Upper Canada and a large portion of Lower Canada was a wilderness, and yet the French sought to extend their territorial jurisdiction to the shores of Hudson's Bay; and some years later, had visions of grasping the Indian and China trade from the shores of the Pacific, which they hoped to reach overland from Canada.

At the present time Canada numbers some 2,700,000 souls, and we have the official statement from the highest authority, that the

* The name "Nipawee" is perhaps the same as Nepowewin or "The Standing Place," the present name of the mission opposite Fort à la Corne. Before the conquest the French had settlements at Dauphin Lake, the Pasquia (near Carrot river or Root river) and at Nipawi, "where they had agricultural instruments and wheel carriages, marks of both being found about the settlements."—*Mackenzie's Voyages*.

† Paris Documents.