

From 1731 until 1760, although the French in Canada were engaged in an unequal and desperate struggle with the English, which resulted in France ceding Canada to England by the treaty of Paris of 1763, Louisiana was undisturbed by the war. The people were beginning to grow rich and prosperous when the governor d'Abadie (of the same family as d'Abadie, Baron de St. Castine, of Canada) was commanded by the French commission to communicate the treaty of 1763 to the inhabitants. The governor died of a broken heart, because by this treaty, Louisiana was ceded to Spain. Aubry, his successor, charged with fulfilling the commission, allowed time to elapse. The people of Louisiana protested to the French court that they should not be ceded to Spain. When the Spanish general San Antonio d'Ulloa presented himself before the city of New Orleans in 1768, the people forced him back to his ship. They declared they would not be ceded without their own consent. In 1769 Gen. O'Reilly arrived with 3,000 Spanish troops and the people rose in arms to repel the landing of the Spanish, but they were appeased by their own magistrates who sent Lafreniere, the procureur-general, to O'Reilly, with the submission of the people.

O'Reilly, the first Spanish governor (an Irishman) pretended much respect for the feelings of the people and maintained the ancient laws and customs. But, after a while he changed abruptly. Lafreniere and other leaders of the French protested. O'Reilly apparently heeding their protest called together 12 deputies of the people to draft a code of laws. These deputies assembled and waited for him. Finally he appeared in their midst at the head of a troop of guards who seized the deputies, loaded them with chains and cast them into a dungeon. Six of them were shot, among them being Villeray, Lafreniere and the other six were sent to a prison in Cuba.

This province need not have been separated from Canada, but for the stupidity that English parliamentary control had exerted at the time of the acceptance of the treaty. It seems that the King of France in ceding Canada to Britain in 1763 had offered to cede Louisiana also in exchange for Florida, but the offer was refused. Had the offer been accepted, Canada would have had its original province with the Great Lakes, the Mississippi Valley, its ports on the Mexican Gulf and its territory of nearly a million square miles of the best lands of North America.

CHAPTER II.

FIRST ATTEMPT TO REUNITE CANADA AND LOUISIANA.

(1792—1798.)

Opposition to Spanish rule, however, was not killed by the treachery of O'Reilly, but by the kindness and magnanimity of Charles III, King of Spain, who placed afterwards the management of the affairs of the province largely in the hands of the very seigneurial families who had been in favor of resisting the transfer of the province to Spain in 1763. Not only this, but he raised and commissioned in any province on the continent of Louisiana—the only royal regiment ever raised in any province on this continent of North America outside of Canada. The good King went further yet, for he felt that by leaving the administration in the hands of families of the Seigneurial Or-

der he could rely on their honor, and so he had extended the dignity of his knighthood among the most eminent of their members, as Knights of the Order of King Charles III. No nobler monument to the wisdom and magnanimity of kindly rule could be evidenced as the result of this conduct than the prosperity and happiness of the people under this regime. But after the murder of the King and Queen of France by the human devils raised into power by the French Revolution of 1792, and the ingress of royalist exiles bringing with them a legitimate horror and detestation of republican institutions, the menace of the regicide republic of France to the Bourbon King of Spain, then as well the Monarch of Louisiana, caused several of the leaders of New Orleans to begin to prepare for eventualities. In Canada, which lay adjacent to Louisiana, extending to the Great Lakes, the noblesse in public assembly at Quebec denounced the French revolution. At the same time under the unconstitutional in-