

completed the judicial organization. The Governor represented the royal authority and devoted his attention especially to the defence of the country while the management of the financial affairs devolved upon the Intendant, who was also invested with somewhat extensive judicial powers.

Feudalism and Colonization.

The feudal system, introduced into the colony almost at its birth, was one of the most efficacious means employed for the settlement of New France. To encourage the settlers or the military officers who distinguished themselves by their devotion to the advancement of the country and the service of the king, tracts of arable lands were granted to them in fiefs and seigniories, on the condition of establishing thereon a certain number of settlers, failing which the grants lapsed. This restriction contributed powerfully to the advancement of colonization. To retain their grants, the seigniors became colonization agents, brought settlers out from France when they could not procure them in the country, and, in fine, took every possible means to keep up the settlements formed on their lands.

The Clergy and Education.

The glorious part played by the clergy in the establishment of New-France is well known. While our missionaries civilized the aborigines, converted them into friends and allies of the French, and discovered a large portion of the territories, which they thus brought under the domination of the king, the secular clergy ministered to the colonists and created the parochial organization, which has been our bulwark and our great source of strength under British rule. To the clergy, we also owe the institutions of classical and elementary education which we possessed at the time of the cession of the country to England; and it was in these institutions, maintained by the clergy, that were formed the great patriots who defended us in the dark days of our history, and who finally won for us the responsible government which we have now enjoyed for half a century.

In spite of the almost continual struggles which it had to maintain against the New England colonies, the Indians, and the monopolists, during the first period of its history, New France had succeeded in becoming a regularly constituted country from the religious and civil point of view, when the war broke out which culminated in the defeat of the Plains of Abraham, in 1759, and which, subsequently, by the treaty of 1763, assured to England the possession of all the French territories in America. The French population then numbered about 70,000 souls, but they were deserted by most of the nobles and the seigniors who returned to France rather than submit to the English yoke, so that there remained with that population only the clergy to guide and defend them.

English Rule.

Notwithstanding the treaties, which guaranteed to the French Canadians the maintenance of their religion and their civil laws, the conduct