[1780

government against all opposition, and it had not been slight; their religion was fully recognized to the extent that it was binding on those who professed it. No people were ever more considerately treated, or more fully enjoyed the protection of a beneficent government. There was no ground of discontent or even of complaint; for the majority had increased in wealth and consideration, and were enjoying a condition of ease and comfort unknown to their ancestors under French rule, with the depressing influences which attended it.

In the invasion of 1776, the most devoted loyalists had been the clergy and seigneurs; in 1780 this feeling, if it at all existed, was torpid and chilled by the hope of being re-allied to France. Prominent among the clergy who testified that they were alienated from British interest, and who became active assertors of French sympathies, was one de La Valinière. He was French by birth, and had arrived in the province only in 1776. He had been admitted as a member of the seminary of Saint Sulpice, and was subsequently appointed to one of the best cures in its gift. He made himself so conspicuous in his furtherance of the French cause, in openly advocating some measure being taken to aid in an invasion, that the ecclesiastics of the seminary considered themselves compromised by his conduct, and brought the matter to the notice of the bishop. The bishop removed him from his *cure* to one where he would be less mischievous; at the same time, to one less lucrative. The proceeding so exasperated de La Valinière that he openly quarrelled with the bishop, and threatened to sue him in a court of law. He is described as being "fiery, factious and turbulent, in no way deficient in point of wit or parts."

To prevent the mischief arising from his agitation, de La Valinière was arrested, with the consent of the bishop, and sent to England by one of the vessels then leaving. It was thought that this step would lead such of the clergy as partook of his opinions, to be more circumspect. From the time of the knowledge of the French alliance, and the active form it pre-

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