

bearing continent. Though this climate is in the temperate zone, the winters however are long and severe, and they are followed by sudden and excessive heats, so to which generally succeed very thick fogs, which are seldom entirely dispelled and always last a long time. These circumstances make this rather a disagreeable country, tho' it cannot be reckoned an unwholesome one.

The French settled in Acadia, in 1604, four years before they had built the smallest hut in Canada. Instead of fixing towards the east of the peninsula, where they would have had larger seas, an easy navigation, and plenty of cod, they chose a small bay, afterwards called the French bay, which had none of these advantages. It has been said, that they were induced by the beauty of Port-Royal, where a thousand ships may ride in safety from every wind, where there is an excellent bottom, and at all times four or five fathoms of water, and eighteen at the entrance. It is most natural to think that the founders of this colony were led to chuse this situation, from its vicinity to the countries abounding in furs, of which the exclusive trade had been granted to them. What confirms this conjecture is, that both the first monopolizers, and those who succeeded them, took the utmost pains to divert the attention of their countrymen, whom restlessness or necessity brought into these regions, from the clearing of the woods the breeding of cattle, from fishing, and from every kind of culture; chusing rather to engage the industry of these adventurers in hunting or in trading with the savages.

The mischiefs arising from a false system of administration at length discovered the fatal effects of exclusive companies. It would be an insult to the truth and dignity of history to say that this happened in France from any attention to the common rights of the nation, at a time when these rights were most openly violated. This sacred tie, which only can secure the safety of the people, while it gives a sanction to the power of kings, was never known in France. But, in the most absolute governments, a spirit of ambition sometimes effects what in equitable and moderate ones is done from principles of justice. The ministers of Lewis the XIVth, who wished to make their master respectable, that they might reflect some dignity on themselves, perceived that they would never be able to succeed without the support of riches; and that a people to whom nature has not given any mines, cannot acquire wealth but by agriculture and commerce. Both these resources had been

hitherto choaked up in the colonies by the restraints laid upon all things from an improper interference. These impediments were at last removed; but Acadia either knew not how, or was not able to make use of this liberty.

This colony was yet in its infancy, when the settlement, which has since become so flourishing under the name of New England, was first made in its neighbourhood. The rapid success of the cultures in this new colony did not much attract the notice of the French. This kind of prosperity did not excite any jealousy between the two nations. But when they began to suspect that there was likely to be a competition for the beaver trade and furs, they endeavoured to secure to themselves the sole property of it; and they were unfortunate enough to succeed.

At their first arrival in Acadia, they had found the peninsula, as well as the forests of the neighbouring continent, inhabited by small savages. These people went under the general name of Abenakies. Though equally fond of war, as other savage nations, they were, nevertheless, more sociable in their manners. The missionaries easily insinuating themselves amongst them, had so far inculcated their tenets, as to make them enthusiasts. At the same time that they taught them their religion, they inspired them with that hatred, which they themselves entertained for the English name. This fundamental article of their new worship, being that which most exerted its influence on their senses, and the only one that favoured their passion for war, was adopted by them with all the rage that was natural to them. They not only refused to have any kind of intercourse with the English, but also frequently attacked and plundered their settlements. Their attacks became more frequent, more obstinate, and more regular, since they had chosen St. Castins, formerly Captain of the regiment of Carignan, for their commander; he having settled among them, married one of their women, and conformed in every respect to their mode of life.

When the New-Englanders saw that all efforts, either to reconcile the savages or to destroy them in their forests were ineffectual, they turned their arms against Acadia, which they looked upon with reason as the only cause of all these calamities. Whenever the least hostility took place between the two mother-countries, the peninsula was sure to be attacked. Having no defence from Canada, from which it was too far distant, and very little from Port-Royal, which was only surrounded by a few weak palisades, it