

Soulte thus moralizes on the reasoning of French-Canadians, "Allegiance for allegiance, that did not prevent them being Canadians before all, and when it had been a question of defending the country, it was never considered that the flag under which they formerly fought had been replaced by another. As a matter of fact, the French of France had gone, there remained on the shores of the great river only 'Canadians.' The English had their faults, but the condition was no worse than the old regime. Of two evils choose the least. Our fathers accommodated themselves to the change. It has not changed, it continues, it can last yet for a long time!"

Murray, in 1760, gave the "Captains of Militia" of the Parishes power similar to that of our judges—under a form of "Military rule." The Treaty of Versailles was signed in Feb'y, 1763, and proclaimed 18th May. The militia were disarmed, but soon, however, permission was given in a wholesale manner to people who wanted arms to hunt, and for whom the officers of militia intervened.

In May, 1764, five companies of Canadians were raised by the "Captains of Militia" against Pontiac. Six hundred answered the appeal. Peace was signed at Oswego in 1766. Prominent among the Canadians were St. Ange de Bellerive of Illinois, Godefroy and Baby of Detroit district. The siege of Quebec took place in Dec., 1775. Our militia sustained the first and the only great clash of this war. In 1777 an Ordinance relative to militia was passed. If, in 1778 and 1782, Canada was not taken by the United States it was due to the French-Canadians. From 1776 to 1783 the Governor (Carleton) kept up three militia companies on war-strength, and he took out of it the N. C. O.s, who served as instructors to the sedentary militia. By 1784 the disarmament was complete. There was only one company of militia.

Of the institutions of the old regime which the English Crown considered most vital to retain, it must be recognized that the Militia organization stood out from all that remained of the French system. In fact, we ask, did anything remain stable of all that France had done in Canada? Pitt allowed the province to regulate its militia affairs. Dorchester organized a regiment of two battalions before going to England in 1796 (after 27 years in Canada), one of them entirely composed of French-Canadians, the 2nd Battalion having some French-Canadians, but chiefly English. Promotion being Regimental, they were equally mixed at the end of six years. If this Regiment had not existed we would have been taken at a much greater disadvantage in 1812. Indeed 1200 to 1500 men of all grades who had not forgotten their training are very valuable when it is a matter of put-