

neither serfs nor vassals. The seigneur transmits his titles and rights to his eldest son. He has a reserved seat in the church; the priest presents him with the holy water, and recommends him and his family to the prayers of the faithful, according to the old customs of France. But his annual rents, remaining at the same rate as in the seventeenth century, are of little value. He indeed gathers also a fee (one-twelfth of the price) upon each sale or exchange of land within his seignory; and this becomes considerable when the land is cultivated and houses have been erected upon it. These dues, however, the seigneurs are reducing, out of respect to the altered circumstances of the times. Thus the Seminary of St. Sulpice, which is seigneur of the Isle of Montreal, and whose original right would now produce a revenue quite enormous, has successively lowered its rate of charge, and is every day making new concessions. Nevertheless, as this reduction is not compulsory, and as some seigneurs have declined to grant it, much dissatisfaction is arising, and the demagogues are demanding the total overthrow of the seignorial edifice. Their clamours have already resounded more than once within the walls of Parliament. Certainly they will not succeed, at least not soon, in accomplishing their act of demolition, for they could not, in common justice, despoil the seigneurs of their rights without giving them an indemnity,—and that would be no small affair. But it is probable that, in next session, the Ministry will bring in a bill for establishing a regular tariff of dues on the succession to property.'

Few travellers make any mention of these seigneurs. Several of them, we believe, are now the sole representatives of once eminent families of French noblesse. The most are understood to have no such heraldic claims. In a pamphlet published a good many years ago, the Right Hon. Sir George Rose, formerly our minister at Washington, gave some curious details as to their *titles*—which seem to have been largely manufactured out of the *regimental nicknames* of the bold dragoons sent out as settlers by Louis Quatorze, and accompanied, under his paternal orders, by helpmates collected from off the streets of Paris by his lieutenant of police. The present titularies—whether real old nobles, or only *Marquesses de Rouge-Bec*, *Barons de L'Isle d'Amour*, and so forth—seem to be almost invisible. We find in the books before us but one distinct notice of them, namely, where M. Marnier speaks of '*deux aristocratiques habitations*' at St. Hyacinthe on the Samaska.

'This village,' he says, 'is the chief place of a seignery *twenty-three leagues in extent*, belonging to an agreeable young man who has travelled much in Europe, and brought back with him a liberal mind and varied information. I could have believed myself in a *salon* of Paris, from the aspect of the works of art with which he has surrounded himself. But what resembles in nothing our dear country is the prospect which spreads out beneath his windows—the

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