

ness large enough for kingdoms. The character of the females connected with the church was too generally impure, and that of most of the men was openly profligate. The soldiers, who had been from time to time despatched from France to protect the French Colonies in Canada, were also lax in their morals, and they came without women. The energies of the people were cramped by the Iroquois, who hung like hungry wolves around the track of the colonists, seeking to glut their vengeance against the French, by butchering their people and plundering their settlements whenever opportunity occurred. Montreal had been attacked by the savages, and its entire destruction was only prevented by the arrival of M. d' Ailleboud from France with a reinforcement in 1647. During the same year the institution of the "Daughters of the Congregation" was founded by Marquerite Bourgeois.

While these French settlements were advancing in Canada, a rival power had sprung up on the Atlantic sea-board. The English, whose discoveries and colonization were nearly contemporaneous with those of the French, had spread their villages along the eastern sea-coast of the United States. First stimulated by the same general objects as those of the French, the fishery and the fur trade, the English strength was gradually augmented by colonies founded in this wilderness on account of oppression abroad, and afterwards led by the sturdy pilgrims of New England, the Dutch of New-York, the Quakers of Pennsylvania, the liberal genius of Lord Baltimore and other enterprising adventurers. While the English were scattered along the sea-coast, the French occupied, or pretended to occupy, the vast wilderness around the Great Lakes and west of the Alleghany Mountains. They both held possession of their respective tracts under the authority of their respective governments, and claimed them on the same grounds—priority of discovery, conquest, and appropriation. They were both rivals in the fur trade, and it was the effort of each to subvert the power of the other. The prize at stake was a country of unbounded resources and magnificent features; and the struggle to attain it was made between two nations,