

HISTORY OF CANADA. .

LETTER II.



Y **YOUNG FRIENDS,**—In my last letter I described to you the events which took place in Canada from 1759, when she was conquered by England from France, up to 1774, when the “Quebec Act” was introduced here for the better government of the country. My present epistle will be occupied with the events which transpired from 1774 up to 1792. In 1775, the United States were colonies belonging to England, such as Canada, Nova Scotia, &c., are at the present time. For some time previous to 1775, the English Government made several efforts to make the Americans

contribute towards its expenses, by laying a tax on various articles which might enter the United States, such as glass, paints, oil; and the last effort they made was to place a tax on tea. The Americans refused to pay this tax. They said they ought only to be asked to pay the expenses of their own Government, and not be compelled to assist in paying the expenses of the Government in England. The English, however, persisted in levying a tax, and the Americans, in consequence, drew up a declaration, at the city of Philadelphia, in the United States, on the 4th of July, 1775, in which they declared themselves independent of England. Of course, England would not consent that the United States should be independent of her, and the two countries therefore made war on each other for seven years, that is, until 1782, when England consented that the United States should be, in future, an independent nation.

During this war the Americans struggled hard to induce the Canadians to join them in fighting against England: but the principal part of the Canadians refused to do so, in consequence, says M. Garneau,* of the preference which the Seigneurs and the

* Histoire du Canada, page 393.