

could but reach the place of its destination. But the rashness of the admiral, joined to the violence of the elements, occasioned its destruction in the river. Thus was Canada at once delivered from its anxieties both by sea and land, and had the glory of maintaining itself, without succours and without loss, against the strength and policy of the English.

France, however, which for forty years had alone withstood the combined efforts of all Europe, vanquished or repulsed all the united nations, accomplished that with her own subjects, under Lewis XIV. which Charles V. had not been able to effect with the innumerable troops of his several kingdoms; France, which had at that time as many great men as would have immortalized twenty reigns, and in the course of one reign had done as many great actions as would have aggrandized twenty nations; France was then upon the point of crowning all these glorious successes, by placing a branch of the house of Bourbon upon the throne of Spain. She had then fewer enemies and a greater number of allies than she ever had in the most brilliant periods of her prosperity. Every thing concurred to promise her an easy success, a speedy and decisive superiority.

It was not fortune, but nature itself, that changed her destiny. Haughty and vigorous under a king in all the graces and strength of youth, after having risen with him through the several degrees of glory and grandeur, she sank with him through all the periods of decay incident to human nature.

To raise a country from a state of barbarism, to maintain it in the height of its glory, and to check the rapidity of its decline, are three things very difficult to accomplish; but the last is by far the most arduous. A nation rises out of barbarism by sudden efforts exerted at intervals; it supports itself at the summit of its prosperity by the powers it has acquired; it declines by a general languor, which has been ripening by almost imperceptible gradations. Barbarous nations require a long continued reign; but reigns of short duration are best adapted to prosperous ones. The tedious imbecility of a declining monarch lays the foundation of evils for his successor, which it is almost impossible to remedy.

Such was the latter part of the reign of Lewis XIV. After a series of defeats and mortifications, he was still happy that he could purchase peace by sacrifices which denoted his humiliation. But he seemed to wish to conceal these sacrifices from his people by making them chiefly beyond the

sea. It is easy to judge how much his pride must have suffered, in giving up to the English Hudson's Bay, Newfoundland, and Acadia; three possessions, which together with Canada, formed that immense tract of country known by the glorious name of New France.

[We have now brought down the Abbé Raynal's account of Canada as low as the peace of Utrecht. But observing that he passes superficially over the invasion of Canada in 1650, we have subjoined a more complete and, we believe, a more authentic narrative of that expedition, from HUTCHINSON'S History of Massachusetts's Bay, and the Journal of M^r WALTERY, who commanded the land forces upon that occasion.]

A small vessel had been sent to England express, the beginning of April, with a representation of the exposed state of the colony, and the necessity of the reduction of Canada, and praying for a supply of arms and ammunition, and a number of the King's frigates, to attack the French by sea, whilst the colony forces should march by land and perform their parts. But

— The consideration of the premises, hath put the government here upon sending a vessel on purpose to give their Majesty and the most honourable privy council a true information of the present condition of these their Majesty's colonies. Sandy plantations easterly, in the province of Maine, are utterly ruined and depopulated. The war was begun there the summer 1688, and about 700 soldiers then levied in this colony by Sir Edmund, and sent thither, the charge whereof is not yet destroyed.—Last summer we had as great a number, or more, in constant pay; the whole of the rates already made amounts to more than twenty thousand pounds. This people are now so very poor, that many profess they have not corn for their families, and those to whom wages are due, cry, that if they have them not, they and their families must starve.—There being now wars betwixt Holland and France, some are fearful lest the Hollanders should essay the passing themselves of Canada, and though it is hopeful they may prove better neighbours than the French; yet, considering the damage that will thereby be sustained by the crown of England, in loss of fishery, masting, furs, &c. it were better to expend two or three thousand pounds for the gaining that place, than that the French, or Dutch, either, should have it.—This small vessel, coming upon this sole errand and business, to serve their Majesty's interest, must not be permitted to return empty. We have confidence, that, may their Majesty have a true information, they will judge the present war made by

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