

transmitted the abstract of grants of land during 1804. He died on the 21st of the month and was buried in the cathedral at Quebec. From the monument erected to his memory by his brother we learn that he was fifty-nine years of age.

The death of Hunter left Canada in a position seldom experienced, for the province was without a governor-in-chief and with no general in command. The senior officer, colonel B. Ford Bowes, of the 6th regiment, had, however, assumed the military authority. In Lower Canada the lieutenant-governor was absent and an administrator was at the head of affairs. There was no chief justice, Elmsley having lately died. In Upper Canada there was neither lieutenant-governor nor administrator, and provision had to be made for carrying on the government.

Russell called the council together, expecting that the office of administrator would be assigned to him. His mortification was great to find that by vote of the council Alexander Grant was chosen for that position. At the time of Simcoe's appointment Grant had been the one resident of Canada nominated to the council. He had met Simcoe on his arrival in Quebec,* when he is spoken of as commodore Grant.

Alexander Grant was the fourth son of the seventh laird of Glen Morriston, of Invernessshire. The family was Jacobite, the father having been "out" with the pretender in '45. Grant first served as a midshipman. In 1757 he was an officer in a highland regiment, and in 1759 was present in Amherst's ascent of lake Champlain. His naval experience caused him to be employed on one of the vessels built by Amherst at Ticonderoga. He was afterwards transferred to the west and was placed in command of the small fleet on the waters of the lakes from Niagara to Mackinaw, the headquarters of which were at Detroit, hence his title of commodore. Grant's residence was at Grosse point on lake Saint Clair, ten miles above Detroit. Although

* [Ante., p. 341.]