

tion become later on, in days of adversity and misgovernment !

Count Frontenac arrived as governor in 1672 and entered upon a career of usefulness that entitles him to be ranked with Champlain and Talon. One of his first administrative acts was to convene the Sovereign Council, and organize an assembly of the principal residents of Quebec to meet twice a year for the discussion of public questions. Frontenac's view seems to have been, to govern in the manner most acceptable to the people. This measure was rejected by the King, as giving too much authority to the colonists. In 1677 reforms in matters of justice were introduced, and regulations concerning the tithes were published. The most appreciated enactment, however, was the imperial ordinance setting forth, that to the highest civil authority alone belonged the right of condemning persons to imprisonment. Gradually were the rights of the colonists being recognized, and the exercise of certain privileges decreed.

While yet Frontenac was filling his second term of office, the colonists had to complain of growing grievances; not that any oppressive measures had been enacted, or privileges withdrawn, but the government was badly administered. Frontenac was almost constantly employed with the Indian wars; and after him the people had to submit to the rule of incompetent governors and dishonest and rapacious intendants, notably Bigot, whose name has become synonymous with infamy. The maladministration of public affairs alienated, in some measure, the people's affection from the French crown, and as we shall presently see, powerfully contributed to the change in the country's history. War was waged with England at intervals during seventy years from Frontenac's time onwards. Finally a lasting peace was restored with the cession of Canada in 1760.

The change of sovereignty necessarily required a change of government, the first form of which was that known as "Military Rule." General Murray became the first governor, and divided the country into three districts, Quebec, Montreal and Three Rivers, over each of which presided a district governor assisted by a military council. This did not give sufficient satisfaction, and was itself in turn changed by the Treaty of Paris.

Various treaties affecting Canada had previously been concluded between France and England, but this was the most important, and diverted entirely from its former course the current of events in North America. By this treaty, dated October 7th, 1763, the inhabitants of Canada were accorded by England the full possession of their property, the free exercise of their religion, the use of their language, and the enjoyment of all the privileges and rights of British subjects. The French Canadians readily passed under the sovereignty of England, and what might seem surprising, they became as loyal to the English crown as they had been to the French, and even more so. A cause for other nations to stare—Frenchmen subjects of England ! But it is easily explained. The people at this time were essentially Canadian. They were the third generation in this land, that contained all that was dear and sacred to them; the graves of their fathers, cherished traditions of noble deeds, and their own homes. They loved France, no doubt, but they loved Canada more. Besides this, we have already pointed out that considerable dissatisfaction existed in the colony prior to the cession. Add to this, that England had made liberal concessions to them, which dispelled all notions of the presence of triumphant aggressors, and taught them to look upon the new-comers in the light of deliverers and protectors.

While general satisfaction prevailed, the French, however, protested mildly but firmly, against the inferior representation accorded them in the new council, and the introduction of English courts and forms of law. As a remedy the Home Government passed the Quebec Act of 1774. The passage of this act was due in a great measure to the influence of Hon. Guy Carleton, who became governor after Murray, and was always friendly to the Canadians. By this act it was ordained that the old laws should be restored to the Canadians, the Custom of Paris being again introduced as the law of Canada, with the addition of the English criminal code; that the French Canadians be allowed to hold offices of public trust, and that the Executive Council be composed of French and English residents. This council was empowered to frame laws, but subject to England's approval.