

Champlain, Montmagny was appointed Governor. But although he entered into the views of his predecessor, Montmagny did not possess that practical knowledge and ripe experience which might have enabled him to carry out the projects of Champlain; and by consequence, the fur trade was all that was prosecuted with any degree of energy under his administration.

About that period a number of religious institutions were founded in Canada, ostensibly for the christianization of the Indians, but probably for the extension of the French power through the wilderness, by pressing the sanctions of the Church upon the credulous minds of the savages. At Sillery, a few miles above Quebec, a Catholic seminary was founded for their instruction; and it was placed under the superintendence of three nuns from Dieppe, who had been sent out through the agency of the Duchesse d'Arguillon. The convent of St. Ursula was also established at Quebec by Madame de la Peltrie, a young widow of rank, who had engaged several sisters of the Ursulines at Tours, with whom she sailed from Dieppe in a vessel chartered at her own expense. A seminary of the order of St. Sulpicius was also founded at Montreal. This was consecrated by the Jesuits with great pomp, and the whole Island of Montreal was granted by the king for its support.

The Company of New France, however, did not fulfil the object of its charter. Little was done by that body, either to encourage the settlement of the country or for the advancement of agriculture. The attention of the ministers of the crown was, moreover, diverted from the complaints of the French Colonists, by men who had an important interest in directing the physical labor of the colonies into those channels whence the most sudden wealth could be accumulated; by the partners of the Companies desiring to concentrate the energies of the people upon the fur trade. In the remote points of the wilderness around the St. Lawrence, forts of rude construction had been erected; but these were merely posts of defence, or depots of the trade, the dominion of which, at that early period, stretched through tracts of wilder-