

1646. devoid of the talents required for a post of this importance, or with qualities detrimental to the service of his prince, cannot be removed too soon : but except in case of marked incapacity and well-grounded fears of misconduct, nothing can happen more fatal to the progress of a colony which is not well established than the frequent change of governors ; inasmuch as solid foundations require a great uniformity of conduct, and projects must be followed out which cannot ripen or be executed except with time, and a new governor rarely approves the views of his predecessor or fails to consider that he has better. His successor will pass the same judgment on his in their turn ; and thus, by ever beginning anew, a colony will never leave its infancy, or make but slow progress. But yet there are circumstances where prudence forbids a prince to follow a course which is really the most expedient. Sad extreme to which these gods of earth are sometimes reduced, where the inability to which they are brought, of remedying an evil except by an evil, is well fitted to impress them with a sense of their weakness.

His character and that of his successor.

The Chevalier de Montmagny fell into none of the errors of which I have spoken. On the contrary, he studiously modelled his conduct on that of his predecessor, and confined himself to following, as far as in him lay, the plan which Mr. de Champlain had traced in his memoirs. Hence it is certain that, had the Canada Company seconded him, he would have put the colony on a very good footing, and he is greatly to be praised for having sustained it as he did with so little power. His life, moreover, was so exemplary, and he displayed on all occasions so much wisdom, piety, religion, and disinterestedness ; he spared himself so little when the insolence of the Iroquois was to be repressed ; and he knew so well how to maintain his dignity in the most delicate circumstances, that he endeared himself equally to French and Indians, and the court even long proposed him to the