

1650-1. visit them as soon as possible, and left them¹ in a disposition from which he could, he believed, derive every hope.

Mr. de Lauson, governor-general of New France.

At last, the year 1650²—so fatal to New France by the almost complete destruction of the Huron nation, and by all the misfortunes that resulted from it—closed with a change of governor-general. Mr. de Lauson, one of the leading members of the Canada Company, was appointed to succeed Mr. d'Ailleboût, whose three years had expired; but he did not reach Quebec till the next year.³ Mr. d'Ailleboût left without regret a position in which he could only be a witness of the desolation of the colony, and to whom they afforded no means of maintaining his dignity. The new governor had always been more interested than any other in the affairs of the company. It was he chiefly who had effected in England the restoration of Quebec. His piety, his uprightness, his good intentions were known, and he had always seemed to take a deep interest in every thing that concerned Canada.

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1650, pp. 33, 49; ib., 1648, pp. 27, 32; Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. 522.

² This should be 1651. See *Provision de Gouverneur de la Nouvelle France pour le Sieur de Lauson*, Jan. 17, 1651; *Can. Doc.*, II, i., p. 172; *Commission*, March 20, 1651; ib., p. 202. *Complém. des Ord.*, p. 16.

³ Belmont, *Histoire du Canada*, Quebec, 1640, p. 6. John de Lauson was one of the leading men in the Company of New France, and, as member of the Council of State, had long taken a deep interest in the colony. In 1627 he was made intendant of New France. He was subsequently sent by King Louis XIII. to England, to obtain the restitution of Quebec, after its capture by Kirk: Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. 629. He was president

and superintendent of the new company (*Le Clercq*, *Etablissement de la Foi*, vol. i., p. 433), and as such opposed the return of the Recollects: ib., pp. 453-7. He was appointed governor, on the nomination of the company, January 17, 1651, and arrived at Quebec October 13, 1651: Ragueneau, *Journal*; *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1651, p. 1; Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. 629. He was governor till 1656, when he returned to France and became sub-dean of the King's Council and resided in the cloister of Notre Dame with one of his sons, a canon there: Ferland, *Histoire du Canada*, p. 434; *Memoires et Documents publiés par la Soc. Hist. de Montréal*, p. 83. He died at Paris, Feb. 16, 1666, aged eighty-two: Ragueneau, *Vie de la Mère Catherine*, p. 320. His career in Canada was not happy.