

1627. open shop in Paris and other cities on their bringing back an authentic certificate of their service ; and for this purpose there should annually, at each embarkation, be filed in the Office of the Admiralty a list of those sent to New France by the Company. 2d. That as goods, of whatever quality, coming from said countries, and especially those manufactured there, would be the fruits of French industry, they should for fifteen years be free from all imposts and subsidies, although transported and sold in the kingdom ; that likewise all munitions of war, provisions, and other necessities for victualling and embarking, to be made for New France, should enjoy the same exemptions and franchises during the said term of fifteen years. 3d. That it should be lawful for all persons, of any rank whatever, —ecclesiastics, nobles, officers, and others,—to enter the said Company without compromising the privileges granted to their orders ; that those of the Company might, at their discretion, admit to the association those who presented themselves ; that if any were not noble by extraction, his majesty would ennoble to the number of twelve, who should thereafter enjoy all privileges of nobility, which should descend to their children born or to be born in lawful wedlock ; that for this purpose his majesty would furnish the said associates twelve patents of nobility, signed, sealed, and issued with names in blank, to be filled with those of the said twelve associates, and that these Letters Patent should be distributed by the Cardinal Grand Master to those who should be presented by the Company. 4th. That the descendants of the French settled in said country, and the Indians who should be brought to the knowledge of the faith and make profession thereof, should be deemed and reputed native Frenchmen, and as such should be allowed to come and reside in France, at their option, and there acquire, dispose by will, and take by devise, bequest, and gift in the same manner as real natives of the kingdom and Frenchmen born, without being held to take out any letters of declaration or naturalization.