

In fine, the king promised, in case any civil or foreign war occurred to prevent the fulfilment of the present articles, to grant the associates such further delay as his council should deem meet ; to issue and ratify in the proper office all letters necessary for the execution of the preceding articles, and in case of opposition to their verification his majesty reserved cognizance thereof to himself. Louis XIII. closed by saying, that if the associates, in the course of time, found it necessary to explain or amplify any of the articles, or add new ones, relief should be provided, according to the exigency, on their remonstrance ; that they should also be at liberty to draw up such articles of association, rules, and ordinances as they deemed necessary for the maintenance of their society ; which articles, rules, and ordinances being approved by the grand master, authorized by his majesty, and duly registered, should be thereafter inviolably observed according to their form and tenor, as well by the said associates as by those already settled and to settle thereafter in New France. 1628.

These articles were signed April 19, 1627,¹ by Cardinal de Richelieu and by those who had presented the project. The king approved them by an edict dated in the month of May, in the camp before Rochelle ; and this edict explains in the greatest detail what I have just given in brief. This done, the Duke de Ventadour resigned into his majesty's hands his rank of viceroy. The company, which took the name of the Company of New France, soon numbered one hundred and seven associates, of whom Cardinal de Richelieu and Marshal Defiat, superintendent of finances, were the chief. The Commander de Razilli, Mr. de Champlain, the Abbé de la Magdelaine, and several other persons of condition, entered into it. The rest were made up of able and wealthy merchants, and of the principal burghers of Paris and other commercial cities.² In fine, there was

¹ *Mercure François*, xiv., p. 233 ; *toire de la Colonie Française*, p. 228. Edits et Ordonnances, i., p. 6. As to ² A list is given in *Creuxius, Historia Canadensis*. Among others is an error in the last, see *Faillon, His-*