

the character of their solid, judicious, elevated mind, capable of reflecting, as well as on the fact of its being the most sedentary and laborious of all the nations yet known on this continent.

1633.

But to execute this project, a certain number of laborers was needed, and it was necessary to put them in a position to draw their subsistence from some other source than a country which had no little difficulty in supporting its settlers. Now, this was not easy to provide for. The Company had been induced to believe, that in a rising colony, mendicant religious would be rather a burden than a service to the settlers, who scarcely had the necessities of life. It was, therefore, not minded to send back the Recollect Fathers—at first, at least; and it found means to induce the king's council to adopt its reasoning.¹ For the same reason, the Jesuits had to draw from France all that they might need; and there was a fear that their past losses had cooled the zeal of those who had hitherto contributed most to expenses that proved useless. Happily, these fears proved vain. Almost all those who were, in the outset, interested in behalf of New France, felt bound to put the Jesuits not only in a position independent of the settlers, as for their support and the functions of the ministry, but also to contribute to the settlement of the country; giving meanwhile, however, their principal attention to the instruction of the French and the conversion of the Indians.

Accordingly, in 1632 (that is to say, immediately after the signing of the treaty of St. Germain), Fathers Paul le Jeune and Anne de Nouë embarked for Quebec.² They

¹ Charlevoix's reasoning is undoubtedly amiss, as the first offer was made neither to Recollects nor Jesuits, but to the Capuchins. See Document of Cardinal Richelieu in Martin, *Relation Abrégée de Quelques Missions, etc.*, par le P. F. J. Bres-
sani (Montreal, 1852), p. 295.

² Le Jeune, *Relation de la Nouv. France* (1632), p. 1.

Faillon, in his *Histoire de la Colonie Canadienne* (i., p. 282, n.), a capable and impartial writer, defends the Jesuits from the charge of having excluded the Recollects, at this time, from the mission.