

erable town, composed of fervent Christians, who cleared a pretty large tract, and were gradually formed to all the duties of civil society.<sup>1</sup> 1638.

The neighborhood of Quebec and the exemplary conduct of its people contributed not a little to ground the new inhabitants of Sylleri in piety, and inspire them with a kind of government suited to their character. All led a very regular life, and most of them displayed a fervor which filled old Christians with shame, impressing them with the importance of not being outstripped in piety and regularity by savage neophytes. All know how most colonies in America were formed; but we must do this justice to New France, that the origin of almost all the families still subsisting there is pure, and free from those stains which opulence effaces with difficulty. Its first settlers were either mechanics, who were always engaged in useful labors, or persons of good family, who emigrated with the sole view of living there in greater quiet, and preserving more certainly their religion; a thing impossible then in many provinces of France, where the Huguenots were very powerful. I fear contradiction on this point less, as I lived with some of these first settlers, then almost centenarians, their children, and many of their grandchildren, all most worthy people, estimable for their probity, their candor, and the solid piety which they professed, as well as for their whitened locks and the remembrance of the services which they had rendered the colony.<sup>2</sup> Edifying  
conduct of  
the inhabit-  
ants of Que-  
bec.

Not but that in these first years, and still more as time wore on, faces were met with of persons whom the involved state of their affairs or misconduct had forced to leave France, and others of whom the authorities sought to purge the state and families; but as persons of these classes came only in small bodies, and great care was taken not to leave them together, the colonists had almost always the conso-

<sup>1</sup> Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1639, p. 19.

<sup>2</sup> Ferland, Notes sur les Registres de Quebec.