

1668. Many of the officers had obtained lands, with all the rights of Seigneurs; they almost all settled in the country, where they married, and where their posterity still subsists.¹ Most of them were gentlemen born; and, accordingly, New France has more of the old noblesse than any other four colonies, and, perhaps, than all the rest together. To conclude, wherever they cleared the ground, the soil proved good, and as the new settlers were stimulated by emulation to equal the virtue, industry, and love of labor of the older, all were soon in a condition to subsist, and the colony, as it multiplied, had not to deplore a decline in morality and religion.

Comet,
earthquake,
sickness.

In the month of April, this same year, there appeared a new comet at Quebec. It was lance-shaped, reddish, very long, and fiery; one of its extremities was hidden beneath the horizon; it followed the setting sun, and disappeared as soon as the moon rose. The people thought that it announced some shocks of earthquake, which were felt some time after; and sickness, which prevailed the ensuing fall.² As usual with the populace, when once alarmed, they did not limit their fears to this, and entertained great fears for the harvest: but no malign influence approached the fields, and the harvest was one of the most abundant.

A Hospital
nun dies
in the odor
of sanctity.

In the month of May, the Hospital nuns of Quebec met with a loss, in which all the public shared their regret. A nun of this house, Mother Catharine of St. Augustine, died after filling all Canada with the odor of her sanctity, nor has time even now diminished in aught the veneration felt for her in her lifetime. Mother Catharine of St. Augustine was the daughter of James Simon, Sieur of Longpré, and was born May 3, 1632, at Saint Sauveur-le-Vicomte,

¹ Sixty concessions, chiefly to officers, were made in Oct. and Nov., 1672: Seignorial Questions, A, p. 68a; C. II., p. 33. Among the officers were Sorel, Chambly, Contre-cœur, Vercheres, Boisbriant, St. Ours, Durantaye, Sueur. See Faillon, Hist.

de la Colonie, iii., p. 342; Dussieux, Le Canada, p. 31.

² Le Mercier, Journal, April 13, 1668; M. Marie de l'Incarnation, Lettre Sept. 1, 1668. Juchereau, Histoire de l'Hotel-Dieu, p. 170, mentions that of 1665.