

sors and of the bishop, and to maintain a good understanding among all the clergy in the country. This last article in his instructions was not founded on any complaint, there being a perfect union among all the bodies that constituted the secular and regular clergy: nor did any thing edify the people more than this concert. But many complaints had been made on the first subject; and we shall soon see what gave rise to them, as well as the remedy applied to this pretended evil.¹

1668.

Mr. Talon did not leave New France with the view of never returning; and in the course of a few years we shall see him resume his office. Domestic affairs required his presence at Paris, and he had had some matters of dissatisfaction in Canada, which made him desire to leave it for a time. It is certain that he complained to the court of the manners of Mr. de Courcelles towards him. That general, among very good qualities which rendered him one of the most accomplished governors who ruled New France, had some faults, the most striking being an occasional want of activity, with an indisposition to have it remedied by others when necessity required it.

Character of
Mr. de
Courcelles.

On his side, Talon thought it his duty to go his own path steadily, without communicating to the Governor many things where he dreaded a delay prejudicial to his majesty's service and the good of the colony. It seems, too, that Mr. de Courcelles was not always easily approached, and that he disapproved the conciliatory policy which some seemed to use with the clergy, against whom he had allowed himself to be somewhat prejudiced. This appears from a letter addressed to him by Colbert in 1670, for he informed him that he should bear with more from those with whom he had to live; that in time he would be able to see fewer faults and more good qualities in Mr. de Bouterouë, who was highly esteemed at court; that that Intendant was praiseworthy for showing deference and

¹ These Instructions have not been found in recent researches.