

general, who had always reserved the right of administering justice in person, on recourse had to them, and this was frequently the case. In important affairs, he convened a kind of council, composed of the Great Seneschal, the Superior of the Jesuits (who, previous to the arrival of the bishop, was the only ecclesiastical Superior in the country), and some of the most notable inhabitants, who were invested with the title of councillors.

1663.

The  
Superior  
Council.

Thus when, in 1651, the *Sieur Godefroy* was sent with *Father Dreuilletes* to New England to treat of a perpetual peace between the two colonies, he was styled in his credentials, "Councillor in the Council of New France."<sup>1</sup> But this council was not permanent: the Governor-General established it by virtue of the power conferred on him by the king, and changed it as he saw fit.<sup>2</sup> It was not till this year, 1663, and after the king took Canada into his own hands, that this colony had a permanent council established by the prince. The edict for its creation, dated in March of this year, enacts that it shall consist of *Monsieur de Mesy*, Governor-General; *Monsieur de Laval*, Bishop of *Petræa*, Vicar-Apostolic in New France; *Mr. Robert*, the Intendant; of four councillors to be named by these three, subject to removal or continuance in office at their pleasure; of a Procurator-General, and a *Greffier-en-Chef*.<sup>3</sup>

*Mr. Robert*, Councillor of State, had been this year appointed Intendant of Justice, Police, Finance, and Commerce for New France, and his commission is dated the twenty-first day of March; but he never came to Canada, and *Mr. Talon*, who arrived in 1665, is the first who filled the office.<sup>4</sup> *Mr. Duchesneau*, who succeeded him in 1675, brought over a royal order, by which the Intendant was

<sup>1</sup> See vol. ii., p. 214.

April; N. Y. Colonial Documents,

<sup>2</sup> See letter of d'Argenson, Sept., 1658, Can. Doc., II., i., p. 267.

ix., p. 7, which gives March.

<sup>3</sup> See edict in Edits et Ordonnances, i., p. 37, where it bears date

<sup>4</sup> Commission, Edits et Ordonnances, iii., p. 33; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 22.