

1664. of his successor. Mr. de Mésy, major of the Citadel of Caën, professed exalted piety. The Bishop of Petraëa, who had known him intimately, cast his eyes on him, proposed him to the king, and his majesty accepted the nomination. But he was scarcely in office before he seemed a totally different man, or else those who abused his predecessor's weakness profited by his (for where is the man who has not some?) to urge him to still greater excesses against the bishop and against those who thought like the prelate.<sup>1</sup>

Violent  
conduct of  
Mr. de Mésy

The metamorphosis was so sudden, and the flames of discord were kindled to that extent, that it was necessary to apply a prompt remedy. The king's council had no doubt of the culpability of Mr. de Mésy, especially when they beheld at the head of his accusers two of the chief members of the council, namely, the Sieur Villeray, Councillor, and the Sieur Bourdon, Procurator-General, both men of known probity and wisdom, whom the new governor had, without any form of trial, compelled to embark for France. Yet, they did not disregard the memorials which he had transmitted to the ministry in his own de-

<sup>1</sup> Augustine de Saffray Mésy was originally a Calvinist, but became a disciple of the celebrated Mr. de Bernieres, and had passed some time at the Hermitage with Mr. de Laval: M. Marie de l'Incarnation; Juchereau, *Histoire de l'Hotel-Dieu de Quebec*, p. 148. De Mésy's commission was dated May 1, 1664: *Edits et Ordonnances*, iii., p. 21; *Can. Doc.*, II, ii., p. 170. On his arrival the council was reorganized, under edict of April, 1663 (*Edits et Ord.*, iii., p. 37), Quebec made a city with a mayor and echevins (*Edits et Ordon.*, ii., p. 10), and severe laws against liquor-dealers promulgated. Less justifiable were his acts in relation to Montreal, and especially his removal of the veteran Maison-

neuve, in June, 1664. Garneau, *Histoire du Canada*, i., p. 186, gives a detail of the whole struggle between de Mésy and the bishop, from the Registers of the Sovereign Council. The breach arose from the election of a syndic, in 1664, to replace the mayor and echevins. De Mésy removed the first one elected, and called a new election against the advice of his council. De Mésy removed three of the council and Mr. Bourdon, Procureur-General; and finally, Sept. 18, 1664, dissolved the council entirely, and formed a new one: Lalemant, *Journal*. The bishop protested against these acts as illegal: *N. Y. Col. Doc.*, ix., pp. 19, 22, etc. See as to de Mésy, Ragueneau, *Vie de la Mère Catherine*, p. 254, etc.