

fence; and although these did not justify his course, they excited suspicions which it was subsequently very difficult for some to lay aside. 1664. 

He had insisted especially and strongly on the great influence which the Jesuits had in the colony; and as the court had hitherto scarcely interfered in the affairs of New France, which it had in some sort abandoned to the Canada Company, and as the Relations annually received from that country and widely circulated, spoke much of those missionaries, whose functions obliged them to enter into all matters that concerned the Indians, many persons were convinced that the governor's complaints were not unfounded: they judged of what was by what might be, and concluded that men who enjoyed so great an influence would, naturally speaking, use every endeavor to preserve it, and might at times abuse it.¹

On the other hand, the council was convinced, and hesitatingly avowed, that New France was under obligation to them for being upheld in the critical circumstances through which it had passed; they were esteemed necessary in connection with the natives of the country, who knew them only, and who could be secured only by their means; finally, Mr. de Mézy, while recriminating, had not cleared himself, the Bishop of Petraea making charges of which he could not purge himself.

He is recalled.

Mr. Colbert, accordingly, deemed it necessary to recall him, reserving to himself to take precautions to limit the power of the ecclesiastics and missionaries in case it was shown that it went too far; and, in this view, he prepared to select for the colony officers of a character not to give any ground of exception in their conduct, and who would not suffer any to share with them an authority which it behoved them to be invested with exclusively. Mr. de

¹ See, as to this affair, La Tour, *Apostoliques de sa Grandeur Mr. F. Mem. de Mr. de Laval, Abbé Bois, X. de Laval-Montmorency*, pp. 29, *Esquisse de la Vie et des Travaux* 30.