

## BOOK IX.

WE have seen in what a state of weakness and languor the Company of a Hundred Associates, erected in 1628 for the settlement of Canada, although one of the most powerful ever formed, either in the number or rank of the members, or the privileges conferred on it,<sup>1</sup> had nevertheless left that colony. It even wearied soon of the slight expense it incurred, and, after the year 1644, abandoned the fur-trade to the settlers, although it was almost the only advantage it derived, reserving only for its right of seigneurie an annual quit-rent of one thousand beaver-skins.<sup>2</sup>

At last, in 1662, having been reduced to forty-five associates, it purely and simply surrendered all its rights to his majesty,<sup>3</sup> who soon after included New France in the grant made of the French colonies in America in favor of the West India Company, with the right of appointing governors and all officers.<sup>4</sup> It is true, that as this new company (says Mr. Colbert, in a memoir that I have had in my hand) had not yet sufficient knowledge of the persons proper to fill the first posts, it besought the king to fill

1664.

The king grants Canada, surrendered by the company of 100 associates, to a new company.

<sup>1</sup> See vol. ii., ante, p. 39.

<sup>2</sup> Articles accordés entre les directeurs et associés en la Compagnie de la Nouvelle France, et les députés des habitants du dit pays, Can. Doc., II., p. 152. They were dated January 14, 1644, and were approved by the king March 6, 1645: Edits et Ord., i., 28; Memoires sur les Possessions, ii., p. 497.

<sup>3</sup> See deliberation held Feb. 24, 1663, Edits et Ordonnances, i., p. 30; Abandon et Demission du Canada au Roi par la Compagnie de la N. F., Ib., 31; Acceptation du Roi de la Demission, Ib.

<sup>4</sup> See patent, Etablissement de la Compagnie des Indes Occidentales, May 28, 1664, Edits et Ordonnances, i., p. 40; Mem. des Comm., ii., p. 527.