

1665. he had not been inactive. He informed himself thoroughly of the forces, nature, and resources of the country,¹ and by the 4th of October, he completed a detailed memoir, which he addressed to Mr. Colbert. He acquainted him that Mr. de Mésy had died before information of his recall reached Canada; that it had been considered most advisable by the Marquis de Tracy, Mr. de Courcelles, and himself, not to proceed to investigate the conduct of that governor, and that as the Bishop of Petraea, the ecclesiastics, the Superior Council, in a word, all who had brought charges, refrained from taking any further steps in the matter, they had considered that his majesty would not deem it improper that his faults should be buried with him in the tomb.²

Talon's
report to
Colbert.

He then speaks of de Tracy, and remarks that the age and infirmities of that Viceroy inspired grave fears that the country would not possess him long; that he did not spare himself at all, and could not be more active were he a man of thirty; that his great ability for the office which his majesty had confided to him rendered him, nevertheless, very necessary to New France; and that in his opinion, in case he sought to retire, the king should not displease him by refusing permission, but should urge him to continue his services, leaving him at liberty to return, and evincing the pleasure that it would afford his majesty if he did not avail himself of it, till he was assured that his absence would be in no wise prejudicial to the affairs of the colony. He gave his opinion on Mr. de Courcelles briefly, making a very fine eulogium upon him; and he detracted nothing from it, even in the time of the contentions which he subsequently had with that governor. Finally, to come to colonial topics, he declared that he did not know a more glorious undertaking for a great minister

¹ Mother Juchereau gives a pleasing anecdote of his passing himself off as a valet in visiting the Hotel Dieu. *Hist. de l'Hotel Dieu*, p. 178.

² Talon's Report to Colbert, Oct. 4, 1665, N. Y. Colonial Documents, ix., p. 29. *Canada Documents*, ii., p. 47.