

1692.

rived large revenues from their gains; hence it ensued that the colony gained no strength, and trade languished.

A still more serious and universal complaint arose from the open favor which he continued to give to the liquor trade, or at least his toleration on this point, as culpable as favor even, in a Governor who had, more than any other, the gift of inspiring obedience when he wished. Those who looked more closely into the disorder produced by the wretched traffic, and whom the visible decline of the towns of Christian converts kept in constant alarm, were compelled, for fear of aggravating the evil by wishing to remedy it, to mourn in secret, and they counted it as little, that their very lives were often in danger amid their neophytes, infuriated by liquor. But all the world did not feel bound to observe a similar reserve, and many sought to bring to the throne itself, a knowledge of a disorder, which the Sovereign's power alone could in future arrest. The following is what the Abbé de Brisacier wrote on the 17th of September, 1693, to the King's Confessor :

“It seems absolutely necessary that his Majesty be informed of the brutalities and murders recently committed in the streets of Quebec, by Indian men and women intoxicated with liquor, who in that state gave way to everything, without shame or fear. The Intendant (Mr. de Champigny,) moved by these horrible excesses, and constrained by his instructions to write nothing here except in concert with the Governor, states, that if he is ordered to lay the truth before the Court, he will do so; but as the evil presses, and the fact is attested by several letters of trustworthy persons, extracts from which will be given you, this unrestricted sale of liquors must be again arrested, not only to prevent offence to God, by the continuation of so many crimes, but also to retain in our alliance, the Indians, who leave and abandon us at the present pressing crisis of the war. You only, my very reverend Father, are in a condition to speak; the cause of the Lord, and the public weal of New France, are in your hands: your zeal will not be unrewarded.”