

1713-24. Court a memoir, of which the reader will be the better pleased to see the substance here, as it explains very clearly the actual position of that colony. It can, I believe, be safely asserted, that if this memoir does not persuade all, who read this history, to join in the preference given to Isle Royale over Acadia, it will at least show that after the cession of that province and the port of Placentia to the English Crown, a solid establishment on that island was indispensably necessary.

The two Intendants first assume that the chief, and almost sole object in fact, aimed at in the colony of Canada, has been the Fur Trade, especially that in beaver-skins; which is true, however, only of individuals; but they remark justly, that it should have been foreseen that in course of time the beaver-skins would be exhausted, or become too common, and that consequently, they would not suffice to sustain a colony of that importance; that it has, in fact, fallen into the latter of these two difficulties, the abundance of beaver having ruined it. Private individuals, who had no object except to enrich themselves speedily, disregarded this. It mattered little to them what became of New France, after they had drawn from it wherewith to live at ease in Old France.

They then observe that the Beaver trade has never been able to maintain more than a very limited number of settlers; that the use of this commodity can never be sufficiently general to maintain and enrich a whole colony; and if the consumption were sure, they could avoid the difficulty just stated, only to fall into the first; that for want of making these reflections, the colonists of New France had devoted themselves almost exclusively to this trade, as if they had been certain that the beavers would reproduce as rapidly as codfish in the sea, and that the sale of their skins would equal the sale of that fish. They have accordingly made it their chief business to roam through woods and lakes in pursuit of furs. These long and frequent voyages have accustomed them to a life of indolence, which they renounce reluctantly, although their jour-