

neys now produce very little, in consequence of the low ^{1713-24.} price of beaver. The English, they continue, have pursued a very different course. Without wasting time on such long excursions, they have tilled their soil, established manufactures, set up glass-works, opened iron mines, built ships, and have never regarded furs but as an accessory on which little dependence was placed.

Necessity has, it is true, at last opened the eyes of the Canadians; they have been forced to cultivate flax and hemp, to make linen cloth and inferior druggets of the wool of their old clothes mixed with thread; but the long contracted habit of doing nothing, prevented their rising completely from want. All, indeed, have grain and live stock enough to live, but many lack covering for their bodies, and are forced to pass the long severe winter clad in deer-skins.

Yet the King expends in that colony a hundred thousand crowns a year: the furs are worth about two hundred and eighty thousand livres; the oils and other minor products bring in twenty thousand livres; the pensions on the royal treasury paid by the King to individuals, and the revenues held by the bishop and seminaries in France, amount to fifty thousand francs. This makes six hundred and fifty thousand livres, on which all New France rolls. On this sum alone can it conduct its trade; and it is evident that this cannot be sufficiently great to maintain a colony of twenty or twenty-five thousand souls, and furnish what they are obliged to draw from France.

Its affairs were formerly on a better footing, the King spending a great deal more there; it shipped beaver to France to the amount of about a million, and was not so thickly settled; but it always drew more than it was able to pay, which ruined its credit with mercantile men, who are in our days not disposed to send goods to Canadian merchants without letters of exchange or a good security. From this, and the low price to which beaver has fallen, it followed that all the money in Canada had to go to France to obtain goods; so that there was a