

1698.

DeCallieres
appointed
Governor
General.

The arrival of the first ships from France informed the Chevalier de Callieres that the King had appointed him successor to the Count de Frontenac,¹ and the joy manifested by all orders in the colony, gratified him as much as his sovereign's selection. Mr. de Champigny had been his rival, and he himself was perhaps indebted for his preference only to the fact that his envoy had been more expeditious than the Intendant's, who on reaching Versailles found the vacancy filled.²

Both deserved it, nor is it easy to say which would have been more acceptable to the colonists in Canada. Mr. de Champigny had acquired great experience in the affairs of the country. His virtue, zeal, disinterestedness, equity, and suavity especially fitted him to govern a colony where there were arms enough to execute what a chief so sagacious and beloved had determined in council; but Mr. de Callieres, with the same advantages, was also qualified to put himself at the head of the troops, who had already more than once marched under his orders, and who admired equally his skill and his intrepidity.

His
character.

Without the brilliant qualities of his predecessor, he had all that was solid: upright disinterested views, without prejudice or passion; firmness always consonant with reason, valor moderated and made useful by a phlegmatic temperament, sound sense, great probity and honor, and a penetration of mind, to which great application and long experience had added all the light they can give; he had from the outset acquired great sway over the Indians, who knew him to be exact in keeping his word, and firm in requiring others to keep theirs. The French on their side were convinced that he would exact nothing of them that was unreasonable; and that if he had neither the birth nor high

¹ His brother the Count de Callieres, was Secretary to the King, and thus undoubtedly secured his appointment. April 20, 1699.

² On Frontenac's death de Callieres dispatched de Courtemanche to France and de Champigny sent

de Vincelotte, both by way of England. Juchereau, Histoire de l'Hôtel Dieu, p. 379. In Canada, according to De la Potherie, iv., p. 122, some desired the return of Denonville, others the appointment of the Marquis de Villeite.