

FAMOUS LETTERS IN CANADIAN HISTORY



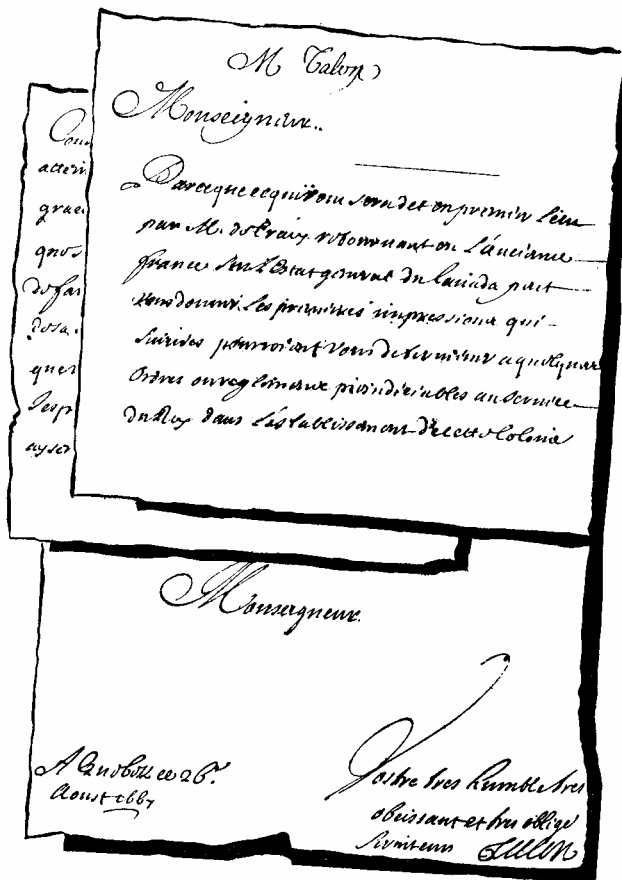
In Conflict

In three years Jean Talon builds a stable foundation for the growth of New France.

When he arrived at Quebec in 1665 as the first intendant he found the colony depending almost entirely on fur trade. When he returned to France he left a vastly expanded population almost self-supporting from farms and infant industries.

This remarkable man joined the French Civil Service as a youth and served in several posts before being sent out as the civilian administrator of the Canadian colony.

He encouraged settlers, particularly tradesmen, and founded several industries. His plans were often in conflict with other religious and civil leaders in the colony and in this letter from the colonial archives in Paris, he tells his fears of religious control.



After he returned to France he was re-assigned for a second brief term in Canada and gave a further spurt to its development.

Talon Fears Church Too Powerful

26 August, 1667.

Monsignor:

What you might be told by Mr. De Tracy—returning to Old France—on the general state of Canada could give you first impressions that might urge you, if believed, to issue orders or pass regulations causing prejudice to the service of the King in the establishment of this colony.

So I feel it my duty to humbly pray you do not believe, until the arrival of my secretary, what will be told you about the Church whose authority, far from diminishing, has regained new strength and has become so much feared that I venture to

hope that as long as she remains at the point now attained that you, monsignor, and those who will have the honor of serving under you in this land will have much pain in valorizing the good intentions of His Majesty for development of this colony which will always be retarded by the fear the Church has created about her administration which we can say shows too much sovereignty and goes over the limits.

Your very humble and very obedient and very obliging servant,
TALON.