

along the St. Lawrence. During the regime of the Associates the foundations of Montreal, the future metropolis of Canada, were laid. In 1667, four years after the 100 Associates had ceased to exist as a chartered company, the white population of New France was nearly 4,000.

5. In 1672 the Count de Frontenac was appointed Governor, and, next to Champlain, he is in every way the most conspicuous figure among the early holders of that office. The chief glory of his administration was the spirit of daring exploration and discovery by which it was characterized, the grandest achievement of all being the exploration of the Mississippi River and the great West under Joliette, Marquette, La Salle and Hennepin.

In 1688 war between France and England led to hostilities between the French and the New England colonies. After nine years of harrying, peace came, and by the treaty of Ryswick (1697) the two nations restored to each other the conquests they had made. The peace lasted four years. The war of the Spanish succession then involved England and France in bloody strife, which, of course, had to be shared by their colonies. Thenceforward until 1713 tragic scenes were enacted from the shores of Acadia to the pathless forests of the West, in which French, English and Indian warriors outvied one another in lust for blood. During the long period of peace following the Treaty of Utrecht (1713), the population of New France slowly increased. The cultivation of the soil was, however, greatly neglected for the seductive fur trade, which possessed for the adventurous *voyageur* and *coureur des bois* a fascination that even its enormous profits did not wholly explain.

In 1744 the war of the Austrian succession once more involved the Colonies in hostilities, which were chiefly remarkable for the capture of Louisbourg. The war terminated between the principals with the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748), but this truce was regarded by both nations as only a breathing spell to prepare for the coming struggle that would decide the possession of the continent.

In 1754 the expected conflict opened with a brush between a small body of troopers under Washington and a party of French soldiers under Jumonville, at Fort Duquesne. Washington took the initiative and, as Bancroft says, his command to fire "kindled the world into a flame." It precipitated the tremendous struggle which, fought out to the bitter end on the plains of India, on the waters of the Mediterranean and the Spanish main, on the gold coasts of Africa, on the ramparts of Louisbourg, on the heights of Quebec and in the Valley of the Ohio, resulted in the defeat of the French and the destruction of their sovereignty on the American Continent, and prepared the way for the foundation of the unique Empire which, unlike Russia and the United States, "equally vast but not continuous, with the ocean flowing through it in every direction, lies, like a world-Venice, with the sea for streets—Greater Britain."

6. The era of the French regime in Canada lasted till 1760, when France gave up the contest with England for supremacy on the American Continent, and New France with its population of 70,000 became the Canada whose progress is set forth in the pages following.