

family. The parliament of Paris, of this domain, had the same office as that of any other provincial parliament, that is, as a court of justice. The authority of the king was so great that never, but once, and that was in 1419, did parliament venture to elect its own president, and even then the king refused to recognize him and appointed another. This illustrates the strength and personality of the prerogative of the King of France—that so far as the appointment of officers was concerned he was absolute—in fact as Louis XIV declared, the King was the State personified, and under this regime of the feudal age, there was greater liberty and happiness to the individual than in any other age of the world's history. There was a better and broader sphere for the achievement of meritorious action. The control of democracy, with its factions and jealousies had not yet cindered the state and destroyed the provinces. The shackles of mediocrity had not yet fastened in all the avenues of advance and closed the way to genius by their multitudinous and envious combinations. The idea throughout was autonomy—the preservation of the individual

and of his liberty as the basis of each more complex unit in the national organism.

As one after another of the great provinces passed to the control of the crown's sovereignty, exercised, however, by a royal governor in the name of the king, instead of, as formerly, by the duke or count, the importance of the parliament of Paris as the supreme court of France became assured, and the customs of Paris in the codification of laws became the more recognized common law of France—except in those instances when the local or provincial parliaments had direct or clear precedent for other usage in the local customs of the provinces. But all foreign territory or acquisitions falling to the king as personaliefs, if without local usage provided for by treaty or cession, became subject, naturally, to the customs of Paris or in other words, to the law of the duchy of France, even while preserving an autonomy and having a local aristocracy and burgess corps with internal administrative powers of sovereignty. This rule applied to Canada which became a royal province, or state in the confederated kingdom of France.

CHAPTER II

VENTS OF COLONIZATION

(1521—1663.)

In 1521 Jean Verazzani, in the name of the King of France, planted the royal standard on the shores of Canada. It is supposed that the present province of New Brunswick, at a spot not far from the city of St. John, was where Verazzani landed.

But as early as 1500 Jean Denys, of Montleut, France, made a chart of that part of the shore of North America known later as the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Finally, following the advice of Philippe de Chabot, Admiral of France, King Francis I. decided to take part in acquiring possessions in the newly discovered lands of the world called America. This task he confided to Jacques Cartier, an explorer, native of St. Malo, well known as energetic, daring, faithful, and capable of exercising command in naval matters. Spain and Portugal were already profit-

ing by the richness of their American possessions and England was becoming enamored with a covetous zeal for gain from such sources.

During the 20th of April, 1534, therefore, Jacques Cartier departed from St. Malo on this mission with two vessels of about sixty tons each, mounted by sixty men for a crew. He cast anchor the 16th July of the same year in the harbor of Gaspé, at the entrance of the St. Lawrence, and planted on that part of the territory of America, of which he had taken possession in the name of the King of France, a cross on which were inscribed the words "Vive le Roi de France." Then he returned to France to render an account of his success to the King.

Again on 19th of May, 1535, he started from France. This time his squadron amounted to three ships. He intended to push his explorations further.

After sailing up the St. Lawrence to Hochelaga, now known as Montreal, he retraced his way to the mouth of the River St. Charles to pass the winter,