

daring mariners, had each, in their own behalf or under the auspices of their respective governments, crossed the sea for these objects. The French directed their projects to the discovery and settlement of the more northern parts of the country around the St. Lawrence, because the Spaniards occupied the territory of Florida, and the English held possession of the middle portion of the continent.

About ten years after the voyage of Verazzano, Jacques Cartier, a mariner of St. Malo, was granted a commission from Francis I. to push his discoveries into the then unknown regions of America. On the 20th of April, 1534, he accordingly embarked upon the expedition with two ships, each of sixty tons burthen, and a good crew of sixty-one men. This first voyage of Cartier was, however, limited to a survey of the northern coast of Newfoundland. When he had landed upon the shores and seen the natives, he was induced, from the precarious state of the weather and the advanced season, to return to St. Malo; and on the 15th of September, 1534, he came to anchor in that port, reserving further discoveries for a future voyage.

On his return, Cartier was received with much favor, and having given a favorable account of his voyage, he soon entered upon a second expedition. His squadron on this second voyage consisted of three ships, the Great Hermine of about 120 tons, which Cartier commanded in person, the Little Hermine of 60 tons, and the Hermillon of 40 tons. Before they embarked, a solemn and gorgeous pageant was performed in the church for their spiritual comfort. Having confessed, and received the sacrament, the crew were drawn up in the cathedral, and, standing before the altar, received also the benediction of the Bishop, who was arrayed in the most costly sacerdotal robes.

On the 15th of May, 1535, Cartier, the French admiral, weighed anchor, and set sail for Newfoundland. The voyage was tempestuous. Arriving within sight of Newfoundland, the mariners passed to the west, and entering the gulf on the day of St. Lawrence, they gave that name to the broad sheet of water which was spread out before them. This name