

## HISTORICAL SKETCH OF CANADA.

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To the celebrated Jacques Cartier belongs the honor of discovering Canada. This distinguished navigator sailed for the coast of America on the 20th of April, 1534, but proceeded no further than Gaspé. In the following year he procured a new commission from his sovereign, Francis I. and on this voyage entered the great river of Canada. This magnificent stream he called the St. Lawrence, because he began its exploration on the festival of that martyr. He sailed up the river to the Isle of Orleans, which he named the Isle of Bacchus from the vines he found there. Here he was visited by Donnacona, "the Lord of Canada," whose residence was Stadacona. This Indian town occupied a portion of the present city of Quebec. Being informed by the natives of the existence of a large settlement away up the river, called Hochelaga, he determined to visit it. After a long though pleasant voyage, during which he was treated with great kindness by the aborigines, he landed on the Island of Montreal, which was the site of Hochelaga. Here, as at Stadacona, the natives treated Cartier and his companions with the greatest hospitality. After a pleasant interview with the inhabitants, who belonged to the Huron tribe, he returned to St. Croix where his vessels had been left, the expedition to Hochelaga having been made in boats of a lighter draft, and went into winter quarters; but being unaccustomed to the severity of the climate, and not having a supply of suitable clothing and provisions, twenty-five of his companions died from scurvy. In the spring the remainder of the party returned to France, compelling eleven of the natives to go with them, thus abusing the confidence which the Indians had reposed in them, and laying the foundation for that animosity which so long existed between the red and the white man.

It was not until 1540 that Cartier returned to the St. Lawrence. On his arrival at St. Croix he found that the seed he had sown was producing its bitter fruit and the natives were opposed to his settling among them the emigrants whom he had brought out with him. He therefore proceeded further up the river, laid up three of his vessels at Cape Rouge, and sent the other two back to France. A fort was built here, and a settlement attempted but with little success; and the country remained in the undisturbed possession of the Indians. About the beginning of the 17th century however a permanent colony was founded under the auspices of a company of merchants who traded with the natives for furs. Further settlements were made by Champlain, De Monts, and others. Champlain first explored the Ottawa River and was the founder of the cities of Quebec and Montreal. After his death the Government was administered by M. de Montmagny, M. d'Ailleboud, M. d'Argenson, M. d'Avangour, M. de Mesy and Marquis de Tracy successively. In 1672 Frontenac was appointed governor. He may be said to have opened the door to civilization in Canada West. One of his first acts was the erection of a fort at Catarqui, near the present site of the city of Kingston; a movement that had been projected by his predecessor, Courcelles. During Frontenac's administration, explorations of the lakes and rivers of Canada West were made by Perrot, Marquette and La Salle.

In 1685, Denonville was appointed to supersede De La Barre, who was deposed on account of his ill success in fighting the Five Nations. Denonville was a brave officer and as soon as he arrived from France went to Catarqui with a force of 2000 men. Here he decoyed some of the chiefs, put them in close confinement and sent