

MONTREAL, ITS HISTORY.

The success which attended the French in their discoveries in the Western World excited the jealousy of the Kings of Spain and Portugal, to whom the Pope, according to the ecclesiastical maxims of those days, had confirmed the possession of the New World. Francis, the then King of France, not acknowledging this right to exclude him from a share of the glories and possessions of America, and facetiously remarking that he "would fain see the article in Father Adam's will which bequeaths that vast inheritance to them," resolved not to be deterred from prosecuting his discoveries. The navigator Verrazzani had given to the countries he had visited the name of *La Nouvelle France* or New France, an appellation which afterwards comprehended the Canadas. Philippe Chabot, the Admiral of France, represented to the King the great advantage of establishing a colony in his new dominions, and introduced him to Jacques Quartier or Cartier, a native of St. Malo, who had been engaged in the cod fishery, as a person eminently qualified for this service. He sailed from St. Malo on the 20th of April, 1534, "with two ships of three score tons apiece burthen, and sixty-one well-appointed men in each." He reached the Island of Newfoundland in twenty days, passed through the Straits of Belleisle, traversed the Gulf of St. Lawrence, approached the Continent at the *Baie des Chaleurs*—which he named on account of the great heat of the summer—proceeded to Gaspé, or Gachépé Bay, where he erected a cross with the fleurs-de-lys of France to secure possession to his master, the King; and persuaded two of the natives to accompany him to France, where he arrived in September of the same year. Through the influence of the Vice-admiral of France, Cartier obtained a new commission, more extensive than

the former, and again sailed with three vessels, which were named the *Great Hermina*, the *Little Hermina* and the *Hermerillon*, on the 19th May, 1535. The ships having been separated in a great storm re-united on the 26th July off the coast of Newfoundland. Proceeding to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and coasting along the north side or shore, they came on the 10th August to "a goodly great gulf, full of islands, passages and entrances towards what wind soever you please to bend." This day will be ever remembered as being ST. LAWRENCE DAY, on which Cartier entered the river, which from this day is called the River St. Lawrence. The name was afterwards extended to the whole of the gulf as well as the river. On the 15th, he discovered an island to the south which he named Assumption, in honour of the fête and day on which he discovered it. The island is now called Anticosti, from its Indian name of Naticotec. Continuing his course he scanned the shores on both sides of the river, and held communication with the natives,—the two Indians who had accompanied him to France, and who were then with him on the ship, rendering great service as interpreters. He soon entered the River Saguenay, and a few days after made the *Isle aux Coudres*, which he called from the excellent filberts found there. Feeling an increased interest in the voyage he pursued it with unabated vigor, and soon reached an island which from its beauty and fertility, especially from the number of wild vines growing there, he named the Isle of Bacchus—now called the Island of Orleans. He was visited here by Donnacona, "the Lord of Canada." Having afterwards found a safe harbour for his vessels he moored them in the Port de St. Croix, in the River St. Charles, and was again visited by Donnacona with 500 of his attendants, to welcome