

14 PICTURES FROM CANADIAN HISTORY

up the adjacent rivers, finding there a lovely country covered with trees. Raspberries, strawberries, and wild cherries grew in quantities, while thickets of red and white roses filled the air with perfume. Birds sang in the trees, and fish jumped in the rivers until the sailors thought they were in fairyland.

3. It was on one of the islands that the white men first found natives, both men and women. Their faces, painted with red and white, looked hideous to the Europeans, and their long, black hair was wound on the top of their heads and stuck with feathers. The clothes of the natives were made of skins sewn together, and their birchbark canoes were very strong and graceful. When found, these were full of dried fish and seal meat.

4. Carefully searching for rivers leading inland, Cartier sailed round the Gulf, which he called St. Lawrence. In different places he came upon camps of Indians, who proved very friendly. Many presents were exchanged, and the natives eagerly stripped themselves of their clothes and ornaments, seeming overjoyed to receive in return the knives, hatchets, and bright-coloured beads brought from France.

5. August had now arrived, and the mariners reluctantly prepared to return home. Before doing so, a wooden cross, thirty feet high, was set up on a point overlooking the sea. It bore a shield engraved with fleurs-de-lys, and the words "Vive le Roy de France."

6. Anxious to show the French people some of the wonders of the New World, Cartier ordered his men to seize two young Indians, and take them on board ship. Their skin clothing was exchanged for coloured coats, and with red caps on their heads and copper chains round their neck, the youths appeared quite happy, but it was the first breach of trust on the part of the white man, and was not forgotten.