

Spaniards,' Henry instructed Paget, his ambassador in France, to demand an immediate audience of the French king. Paget delivered to King Francis a letter from Marillac, the French ambassador in England:

'When Francis had read it, he spake very sore words against Roberval' [wrote Paget to Henry VIII], 'requiring me to signify unto your Majesty that he had done and would do all he could for the apprehension of Roberval, who had deceived him like a false traitor thief. For Roberval had promised to conquer the land of Canada, for which purpose the king delivered him ships with all other things for the furniture of the same, and gave him leave to take out of the prisons as many prisoners as he wished for the peopling of the said country, "but now," said Francis, "he leaveth this enterprise and lieth upon the coast of Brittany, robbing Englishmen and Frenchmen and all that come his way; but he shall be hanged by the neck if I catch him."'¹

Whether this show of anger on the part of King Francis was real may be doubted. In all probability he did not wish to give any cause of complaint to King Henry, who was on the point of joining him in a war against Charles.

All we know is that a month later Roberval finally set sail for Canada from La Rochelle,

'in 3 tall ships furnished chiefly at the king's cost and having in his fleet 200 persons, as well men as women, and divers gentlemen of quality such as M. de Saint-Nectaire, M. de Lespinay, M. de Noirefontaine, de Frotté [a son of the President of the Parliament of Paris], La Brosse, de Miré, La Salle, Royeze, de Longueval, and de Villeneuve.'²

Clement Marot was to have charge of the fighting men, but it is doubtful if he actually sailed with Roberval.³

Contrary winds delayed them, but on June 8 Roberval reached St. John's, Newfoundland, where a few days later Cartier and his company cast anchor on their return from wintering at Cape Rouge above Quebec. Cartier informed

¹ R. H. Brodie, *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII*, vol. xvii. Nos. 120 and 166.

² Hakluyt, *op. cit.*, viii. 283.

³ Brodie, *op. cit.*, xvi. No. 488, p. 234.