

14. During these days there was no lack of provisions, for Poutrincourt's ship had been bountifully laden with all kinds of supplies, and fish and game were plentiful. To induce the gentlemen of the party, who sat at Poutrincourt's table, to do each his part, Champlain formed what he called the "Order of Good Times." Of this each man was in turn Grand Master for one day, when he wore the collar of the order and acted as host to the rest. Every day their Indian neighbors crowded into the hall to see them dine, each receiving a bit of bread or biscuit, while their chief, Membertou, sat at the table as an honored guest. This man, who was still a great warrior, was thought to be over a hundred years old, for he remembered seeing Cartier seventy years before, when he himself was a full-grown man.

15. The leaders of the colony set a good example by working with their own hands, and everything seemed flourishing when news came from France that the king had taken from De Monts his privileges in the fur-trade, and that therefore he would not be able to continue to support his colonists. This meant ruin to their plans, and all the Frenchmen had to go home, leaving Port Royal to the care of their Indian friends.

16. But Poutrincourt was still determined to make a home in Acadia, and nearly three years later he returned to Port Royal, where, to his pleasure and surprise, he found the buildings and even the furniture just as they had been left. The Indians were delighted to see their old friends again, and to please the French (who had been blamed for not trying before to Christianize the heathen) Membertou and all his family consented to be baptized in the river at Port Royal. The service over,