

features of the country, so far as they could be examined from the river, were carefully observed—the Indian towns of Cartier's time were no longer in existence, but Champlain regarded with attention the scenery around their sites, and as Cartier had done seventy years before he ascended Mont Royal to obtain a good view.

The peltry trade was destined to become the chief cause or instrument in originating or promoting the actual settlement of the country, and to carry on this trade, fixed stations were necessary, not only as places of rendezvous, where the Indians and traders could meet and have dealings with each other, but also as permanent sites as dwellings and storehouses, to accommodate the people employed, and to contain the merchandise required in the traffic. The first station established was at Tadoussac, at the mouth of the Saguenay, the next at Quebec in 1608, at Three Rivers in 1634, at Montreal in 1642, and other points.

There is no account of Champlain having visited Hochelaga in 1608, the year of his founding the settlement of Quebec, but in 1611 Champlain and Pontgrève returned to Canada, and not having been able to obtain a renewal of the exclusive privileges of trading, thus throwing open the peltry trade, of which the traders belonging to the French ports availed themselves in considerable numbers, for when they arrived at Tadoussac they found traders already there doing business with the savages, and that others had preceded them in the river above, as far as the rapids near Hochelaga, Champlain hastened there, with the determination of establishing a trading station. Temporary structures were begun, ground was cleared, and seeds sown, in order to test the fruitfulness of the soil. He proposed to erect a fort on an island, called by him St. Helen's, after the name of his wife.

He was here again in 1613, and 1615, and also in subsequent years. In 1620, Champlain was accompanied by his wife, who remained in the colony over four years; however, it is not clearly stated whether she visited Hochelaga. She left Canada for France, with her husband, in August, 1621. It may be interesting to note that the entire number of colonists remaining at Quebec was reduced to fifty.

Tormented by frequent attacks by the Indians, and perplexed by the dissensions of rival trading companies, the colony made but little progress during many years, and Champlain's patience and powers of endurance were severely exercised. The death of Champlain, which occurred on Christmas Day, 1635, was a serious blow to the progress of the colony, or as at that date was far from having attained to such a position of growth and strength as to warrant a confident belief in its permanence; there may have been 150 to 180 actual residents or settlers, but located principally at Quebec or in its vicinity. In addition to these there were the agents of the Company of the Hundred Associates at the posts of Tadoussac and Three Rivers, but there is no mention of any settlement at Montreal.

The Company of the Hundred Associates was founded by Cardinal Richelieu, and was organised as early as 1627, but the first expedition under its auspices, in 1628, was a failure, owing to the English having then the control of the St. Lawrence, and capturing the vessels sent out. Then occurred the surrender of Quebec and the other stations, and their occupation by the English. The government of the affairs of the colony by the new Company scarcely commenced until the year 1632, when New France was, by treaty with England, restored to the French.

In 1640, "La Compagnie de Montreal" was formed in Paris, for the promotion of religion in the colony. It consisted of upwards of thirty persons of wealth and influence, who entered into a partnership with the object of establishing a permanent settlement on the island where Hochelaga once existed. Here it was proposed to build a town and protect it with fortifications. Maisonneuve was chosen to conduct the operations, and to preside over all the affairs of the Company in Canada. The sanction of the King and the Company of the Hundred Associates having been obtained, in the course of 1641, 2, priests and families, and forty chosen men, under the immediate command of Maisonneuve, were sent out.

On May 18th, 1642, Ville Marie was founded and solemnly consecrated. The spot selected was near to the slope of the "Royal Mount," which received its name from Jacques Cartier one hundred and seven years before. It is recorded that De Maisonneuve ascended to the summit, and surveyed the boundless expanse of rivers, forests, and highlands extending to the east and south.

The site of Ville Marie became in after times that of the City of Montreal. The exact spot where De Maisonneuve and his companions landed was at Pointe à Catières, where the building erected by the Royal Insurance Company, and at present occupied by the Custom House, now stands.

On arriving at Quebec, they were solicited not to proceed further up the river. The colony had only 200 or 300 persons, and would profit much by this reinforcement. They were offered the Island of Orleans for erecting their establishment, and efforts were made to intimidate them by accounts of the Iroquois, who overran the country, and were still about the island of Montreal. Maisonneuve replied:

"I have not come to deliberate, but to execute; if there were as many Iroquois in Montreal as trees, it is my duty and a matter of honour to go there and establish a colony."

He went without delay. Mdlle. Mance remained to spend the winter in Quebec. Attempts were made to detain her, but she, far from being deterred from going to Montreal, even gained over Madame Peltrie, who, when at Montreal, proposed to go among the Hurons, but the priest Vimont dissuaded her. Eventually she returned to Quebec and there passed the rest of her life. She stayed eighteen months in Montreal, until the year 1643.

The story of Maisonneuve's first landing is so romantic, and is so charmingly related by the historian, Francis Parkman, that an apology is necessary for repeating it:—