

the newcomers, had they remained in Quebec, would have aggravated the situation.

Seeing that matters were going from bad to worse in Canada, Richelieu made up his mind to organize a company strong enough to realize the object he had in view, and composed of men who would keep clear of the mistakes that had wrecked previous colonization societies. In 1627 he gave life to *La Compagnie des Cent Associés* or *La Compagnie de la Nouvelle France*.

The new company was fully organized in 1628, and soon began to carry out the cardinal's desires: an expedition composed of seven ships, commanded by de Roquemont, one of the Associates, with two hundred emigrants on board, sailed for Canada. At last it seemed that Champlain's dream was to become a reality; but again all his hopes were dashed to pieces in such a manner that a less resolute man would have been cast into hopeless despair.

Religious disturbances between Catholics and Huguenots broke out in France simultaneously with a declaration of war between that country and England. De Roquemont's ships were captured by Kirke in the St Lawrence; Quebec fell into the hands of the English in 1629, and Champlain was taken to England. Although peace was signed between France and England in the same year, Quebec was not restored to its former masters till 1632.

In spite of all these adverse circumstances Champlain had never desponded, and continued to hope for better days. While in England he had worked to hasten the return of Quebec to France, and when success had crowned his efforts he went to France to arouse fresh interest in the oversea colony, which had been given up by many as irretrievably lost. It was through his pertinacity and courage that the government and the One Hundred Associates decided to resume their work in North America.<sup>1</sup>

In 1633 Champlain returned to Canada with some colonists. He landed at the foot of Cape Diamond only to

<sup>1</sup> The capture of the ships of the One Hundred Associates had left the company almost completely without financial resources. Its capital at the start was only 300,000 livres.