

as being sorry to have kept us so long in pain; but whilst we followed on our course there came from the land odors incomparable for sweetness, brought with a warm wind so abundantly that all the orient parts could not produce greater abundance." Not till the 27th of July, however, did the ship enter the basin of Port Royal with the flood-tide, and see the wooden walls and roof of the French fort, peering above the spruce. They were soon seen from the shore, and a peal from the rude bastion awoke the echoes of the surrounding hills, and gave testimony to the joy of the two solitary Frenchmen, who, with a faithful old Indian chief, were the only inmates, at that time, in the fort. These men, La Taille and Miquilet, explained that Pontgravé and Champlain, with the rest of the colony, had set sail for France a few days previously, in two small vessels which they had built themselves. But there was no time to spend in vain regrets. De Poutrincourt broached a hogshead of wine, and the fort was soon the scene of mirth and festivity. Then, to add to the prevalent gaiety, Pontgravé re-entered the fort, having fortunately met off Canseau with a boat which had been left there by De Poutrincourt, for the purpose of exploring the west. A few days later, however, Pontgravé and a number of others sailed again for France.

Much work had to be done in that new colony before its comfort could be assured. Poutrincourt and his associates set energetically to improve the condition of things, by making additions to the buildings, and clearing the surrounding land, which soon gave evidences of the agricultural ability of the apothecary, Hebert.* As we need not tell those who have ever visited or read of the western section of Acadia, the soil is exceedingly rich. Besides the fertile uplands, there are extensive alluvial grounds, the value of which was immediately appre-

ciated by the French, for L'Escarbot speaks of them in glowing terms.

The fort stood on the north side of the Equille, and was built not only with regard to the security of its inmates, but with regard to their convenience and comfort as well. It is described as having consisted of a quadrangle of wooden buildings, surrounding a fine court. A path led through an arched gateway at the south-east corner, to the water. The magazine and storehouses stood on the east side of the quadrangle; the men's quarters on the west side; the dining-hall and lodgings for De Poutrincourt and his principal associates on the north; the kitchen, forge, oven, and offices on the south. Four cannon were mounted on a bastion at the south-west corner; a row of palisades flanked the fort. Some patches of ground were cleared about the river and in the vicinity of the fort. As far as the eye could reach was the forest, chiefly spruce, but relieved here and there by groves of maple, birch, and beech, whose lines of crimson, russet, and gold perfectly bewitched the French, when they first saw the American woods in all their autumnal glory.

All the members of the colony had their time well occupied. De Poutrincourt himself passed the rest of the summer of 1606 in an exploring voyage as far as Cape Mal-lebane. He visited the island of St. Croix, and after having met with many misadventures from storms and shoals, he finally reached his destination, which is now known as Cape Cod. Whilst off that place, several of his crew, who had gone ashore, contrary to his orders, were surprised by the savages, and all killed or fatally wounded, with one exception. According to the report of the survivor, the Indians had stolen a hatchet, whereupon the French had fired upon them. The dead were buried near the shore, but no sooner had the crew returned on board than the Indians emerged from the woods where they had been concealed, tore down the cross erected by the French, dug up the bodies, and treated them with every indignity. De

* Mr. Murdock, in his history of Nova Scotia—a laborious compilation from old documents and records—says that this Hebert afterwards went to Quebec, and settled there. Many of the old families of Canada trace their descent from him.