

JACQUES CARTIER,

in 1534, having left St. Malo on the 20th of April of that year, with two small vessels, commissioned by Francis the First to prosecute discoveries in the New World, the existence of which had been previously proved by the immortal Italian, Christopher Columbus. In the following year, 1535, Cartier made a second voyage, when he ascended the St. Lawrence to the rapids, nearly 200 miles above Quebec; on this occasion he made a treaty with the Indians and wintered in the country, pitching his camp at the foot of a steep hillock to which he gave the name of

MOUNT ROYAL

in honour of his master, now the site of the beautiful city of Montreal. During that winter the intrepid Frenchman and his followers suffered terribly from the intensity of the cold, the want of supplies, the hostility of the Indians, and scurvy, but for this terrible disease he fortunately discovered a remedy in a decoction made from the bark of the white spruce tree. In 1541 he made a third voyage to the great river, to which he gave the name of the St. Lawrence because he entered it on that saint's day; after going up towards its source some distance, he anchored his ships at the base of a huge cliff, to which he gave the name of Cape Diamond and on which he erected a cross; he gave it this name because he found small crystalline stones which he thought were diamonds, and that look very much like them, at least, to those who do not know anything about geology; they are simply felspar like that found in the county of Wicklow, Ireland, and worn by the lovers of trinkets as Irish diamonds. The erecting of the cross was the founding of Quebec, although anything like a permanent settlement was not made till 1608, under the bold, skilful, religious, and humane French Governor and pioneer, Samuel Champlain. He sailed up the St. Lawrence in 1603, bringing with him several

JESUIT MISSIONARIES

to convert the savages, who for the want of any other name received the general one of Indians. The world is indebted for a deal of its knowledge of science and geo-

grap
head
vate
rule
and
befo
ther
of C
won
tim
tain
befo
reli
lan
Bl
Cor
mis
the
tha
mer
who
the
Vir
ded
sho
ben
in
wit
its
alw
the
law
as
Ro
its

fro
W
all
tin