

Jaques Cartier. § a mariner of Dieppe, in the service of France; following the track of the Cabots, and that of a Florentine named Berzanani, also in the employ of the French King, (who was in the Gulf certainly in 1525,) entered the St. Lawrence on the day of that Saint, in the year 1534, and ascended its stream as far as Montreal. There is strong reason to believe the Spaniards had been there also before him, perhaps even before Cabot. That they entered the river under Belasco is beyond doubt—the time and extent of their explorations is, however, difficult to fix with accuracy.

This expedition of Cartier's did not lead to anything. It was not until 1608, that settlements were effected by the French Government. Though somewhat foreign to the matter in hand, we may as well state that the name of our province is derived from this voyage. *Canada*, according to Cartier, signifying in the language of the natives, a collection of houses.—Many were the voyages undertaken, of which but slight records remain; yet does it seem that enough of hope, even in the thickness of disappointment, was preserved, to lead to fresh efforts. A Mr. Robert Thorne, of Bristol, persuaded Henry VIII., to despatch "two fair ships, well manned and victualled, having in them divers cunning men, to seek strange regions." They left the Thames on the 20th May, 1527. Of these vessels, one was cast away on the north of Newfoundland—the other returned. Again, in 1536, a Mr. Hore, of London, "much given to the studie of cosmographie," projected a voyage to the north-west. Thirty gentlemen of the Inns of Court accompanied him. Few attempts, even in those days of calamitous adventure, were more disastrous,—wintering in Newfoundland, they suffered the extremities of Famine; some while gathering roots in the woods, were set upon, murdered, and devoured by their companions. Hore, a man of energy and piety, sought in vain to teach them resignation—the torments of want continued so much to increase, the mutinous crew resolved to cast lots, that one might perish, when a French ship arrived on the coast; of this they violently possessed themselves, and in her, the remainder of the expedition reached at last their native country. A series of disappointment like to these, and the oft told tale of wreck, famine, and death, suspended for some time all attempts at discovery by the north-west, and not until the like failure and suffering, by the eastern path, had rendered it equally obnoxious, were they again resumed; still the great fishing banks were yearly visited by the fleets of many nations; in fact that branch of commerce appears

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§ It was Aubert who discovered the St. Lawrence, in 1508. Giovanni Berzani was off the coast in 1524—his surveys relate chiefly to the north-eastern coasts of the United States. Cartier suffered much from scurvy—he brought back the accounts of the Cortereals, as before mentioned; he seems to have been an able man, and returned safely to St. Malo, in July, 1536.