

“unkempt hair and beards, they looked, as an old chronicler vividly says, like river-gods of yore, and so they seemed to the king when they were brought before him. Henry did what he could to recompense these ex-convicts for their terrible experiences; he gave them each a sum of money, and set them free forever from all further process of law.”

It was on the fifteenth of March, 1603, that Champlain set out on his first voyage for New France. He had associated with soldiers and sailors from his youth up, and was not without that practical experience which is of great value to a man who is daily called upon to encounter new dangers and difficulties.

Crossing the Atlantic he spent the summer in cruising along the shores of Newfoundland, Anticosti and Cape Breton and exploring the great river, the Saint Lawrence.

On the sixteenth of August following, the *Bonne Renommée*, with a cargo of valuable furs, started on the return voyage to France, and in little more than a month's time anchored safely at Honfleur.

Among those high in favor at the French court at this date was one Pierre de Guast, familiarly known to readers of Acadian history as the *Sieur de Monts*. De Monts was from the old Province of Saintonge, now a part of the department of Charente-Inferieure. He was a Huguenot, and in later years an important Governor in that part of France.

About this time, de Monts with Samuel Champlain, who was from the same part of France as himself, made an offer to the king that he would personally organize and lead another attempt to colonize a portion of the French dominions in America. He was gazetted Lieutenant-General of New France, with authority covering the larger portion of North Ameri-