

TRADE. The forests of North America abounded in fur-bearing animals, and the Indians were very skilled in the pursuit of them. Merchants exchanged the merest trifles for furs which, in Europe, sold for enormous prices. These two sources of traffic had very much to do in keeping up a European interest in America.

10. In 1798, France again attempted to settle Canada. The Marquis de la Roche was sent out with a number of settlers taken from the prisons of Paris. He left fifty of them on Sable Island, a sterile sand-bank off the coast of Nova Scotia. Seven years afterwards only twelve of these were found living. They were brought back to France, pardoned and provided for by the king.

11. It was by private enterprise that the first permanent settlement was made in Canada. PONTGRAVE, a merchant of St. Malo, and CHAUVIN, of Rouen, joined together, in 1599, and undertook to settle five hundred persons in Canada, on condition that the king would grant them a monopoly of the fur trade. Chauvin died in 1603, and his death put an end to the scheme.

12. DECHASTE, the Governor of Dieppe, next persuaded the principal merchants of several towns to organize a FUR COMPANY. Three vessels were fitted out, and CHAMPLAIN, the real founder of the colony, placed in command of them, 1603. He sailed up the