

What could the efforts of one individual with such scanty help achieve in the gigantic undertaking of colonizing a new country? His struggle was a desperate one; only dauntless courage enabled him to surmount the obstacles that confronted him in his venture.

Unmindful of their obligations, the Rouen Company, formed by Champlain in 1614, failed to send colonists to Quebec. Champlain had soon found out the reason for this violation of their contract. 'I saw,' he wrote, 'that what they chiefly feared was that if the country were colonized, the power to do everything to their liking would be lessened. They would get furs only through the settlers, and would finally be driven out of New France by the very men established there at great expense by the company.'

Champlain's zeal for colonization greatly irritated the traders from St Malo and Rouen, for it constantly endangered their schemes. It therefore seemed imperative, in the interests of the company, to have him removed from Quebec. With that object in view they suggested to Richelieu that this assiduous guardian of New France should be sent somewhere else on explorations and discoveries.

The suggestion failed, and Champlain's influence at home was such that he persuaded Richelieu to supersede the Rouen Company by a new one, that of Montmorency. Two well-known Huguenot merchants, Guillaume and Emery de Caen, were placed in charge. But time soon proved that this was a change without an improvement. The sole object of the de Caen appeared to be to derive profit for themselves and their friends through the fur trade. Not only were they both indifferent to the settlement of New France, but to favour his own interests Emery even placed obstacles in the way of colonization. Hearing that Father Noyrot was about to sail from France in 1627 with supplies for the colony, he managed, under some pretext, to prevent his departure. This untoward interference cast a gloom on Quebec, where a great scarcity of provisions existed, and Father Lalemant, in a fit of despair, left for France with twenty working-men whom he had just brought over to Canada. There were then fifty Frenchmen in Quebec on the brink of starvation, and