

In 1607, Sir John Gilbert, brother to Sir Humphrey, made an attempt to settle in a part of the country which is now within the limits of the State of Maine. He planted a weak colony, but, dying soon after, it languished for a time and was finally broken up. The discoveries made by Cabot, the formal possession taken by Sir Humphrey Gilbert, and the actual residence of his brother, Sir John Gilbert, are considered by the English, as the foundation of the right and title of the crown of England to the whole of its possessions in North America.

In the mean time, the French had not been idle spectators of the attempts of the English and other nations, to gain a footing in America. At a very early period adventurers had visited Canada, for the purpose of annexing it to the crown of France. Cape Breton was known before Nova Scotia, to both the French and English. The former were the first who were acquainted with it, and it probably derived its name from the Bretons of Bretagne in France. It is not positively known whether the French or English discovered Nova Scotia first, subsequent to the voyage of Cabot; but the French were the first to make an attempt to colonize it. In 1598 the Marquis de la Roche was despatched from France by Henry IV. with a number of convicts. He was so unwise as to select Sable Island, that sterile and dangerous sand-bank, which has proved the grave of so many navigators, as his place of immediate settlement. Nothing but disaster and disappointment could result from so injudicious a selection, and, accordingly, out of forty miserable creatures whom he left there, only twelve were found alive seven years afterwards.

In 1603 De Monts was appointed Governor General of New France, which included the whole region between Virginia and Hudson's Bay. Wiser than his predecessor, he chose the spot on which the delightful town of Annapolis now stands, as the capital of his extensive province. Zeal, intelligence, and justice, were the prominent traits of his character. He also gained the confidence and admiration of the savages, who were ever afterwards attached to the French, much to the annoyance and injury of the English. The whole country over which the French thus assumed control, was named Acadia.

De Monts, after having established his "Head Quarters" at Port Royal, which he appears to have done at the solicitation of a personal friend named Pontrincourt, continued his voyages along the coast, trading with the natives, and making further discoveries. He was very active in exploring his territory, and in promoting the interests of his colonists; but his power was of short duration. The jealousy of some adventurers from his own country was excited on account of his exclusive privileges, and they so misrepresented him at the French court, that his commission