

western extremity of the Isle of Orleans, so called by Cartier. What is now called St. Croix was then called Achelacy, at a narrow pass where the river is very swift and dangerous on account of the rocks and other things, and which can only be passed at flood-tide. Its distance from Quebec and the river where Cartier wintered is fifteen leagues.

Now, throughout the entire extent of this river, from Quebec to the great fall, there are no narrows except at the place now called St. Croix, the name of which has been transferred from one place to another one, which is very dangerous, as my description shows. And it is very apparent, from his narrative, that this was not the site of his habitation, as is claimed, but that the latter was near Quebec, and that no one had entered into a special investigation of this matter before my doing so in my voyages. For the first time I was told that he dwelt in this place, I was greatly astonished, finding no trace of a river for vessels, as he states there was. This led me to make a careful examination, in order to remove the suspicion and doubt of many persons in regard to the matter.*

The first explorer of the American coast in the service of France was the Florentine Verrazzano, in 1524. His account of his voyage is given in Old South Leaflet No. 17. This account is the subject of much controversy; but, if it is to be relied on, Verrazzano explored the coast from a point a little south of Cape Hatteras, northward as far as Newfoundland, at various points penetrating several leagues into the country. Ten years later, in 1534, came Jacques Cartier. He steered for Newfoundland, and, believing that he was on the way to Cathay, advanced up the St. Lawrence till he saw the shores of Anticosti, when, the autumnal storms gathering, he returned to France. The next year he came again, with three vessels. He gave the name of St. Lawrence to a small bay opposite the island of Anticosti, a name afterwards extended to the entire gulf and to the great river above. Cartier calls the river the "River of Hochelaga," or "the great river of Canada." He confines the name of Canada to a district extending from the Isle aux Coudres in the St. Lawrence to a point some distance above the site of Quebec. The country below, he says, was called by the Indians Saguenay, and that above Hochelaga. He visited the site of Quebec, and ascended the river to a place which he called *Mont Royal*, Montreal. He wintered at Stadaconé (Quebec), and the next summer returned to France. He came again in 1541; and Roberval came, and La Roche, and others. It was in 1603 that Champlain first appeared upon the scene.

Samuel de Champlain was born in 1567 at the small seaport of Brouage, on the Bay of Biscay. His father was a captain in the royal navy, where he himself seems also to have served; and he had fought for Henry IV. in Brittany. He also went to the West Indies in the service of the king; and his manuscript account, with over sixty crude colored pictures, still exists. He came to Canada in 1603 with Pontgravé, penetrating as far as Montreal. In 1604 he came with De Monts, exploring the Nova Scotia coast, and establishing a settlement on an islet which they named St. Croix, at the mouth of the river now bearing that name. The next spring De Monts and Champlain, leaving St. Croix in a little bark with twenty men,

*The locality of Cartier's winter-quarters is established by Champlain with the certainty of an historical demonstration, and yet there are to be found those whose judgment is so warped by preconceived opinion that they resist the overwhelming testimony which he brings to bear upon the subject. Charlevoix makes the St. Croix of Cartier the Rivière de Jacques Cartier.—*Vide Shea's Charlevoix*, vol. i. p. 116.