

away with him. Happily, for the peace of the expedition, Aubrey turned up a few weeks afterwards, almost a spectre, after his weary wanderings through the inhospitable wilds of Acadie.

The expedition discovered the Ouigondi river, which they called St. John, as they saw it first on the festival of that saint, and visited many other bays and inlets. But the fact most interesting to us at present was the discovery of the basin and river of Annapolis. So delighted was the Baron de Poutrincourt with the scenery in that part of the country, that he immediately obtained a grant of a large district for a *Seigneurie* from De Monts, and named it Port Royal.

The place chosen as the site of the first settlement was a barren islet, which they called St. Croix. Champlain has left us some quaint drawings and descriptions of the first settlement on this islet, which they chose, with such singular infelicity, in preference to the many far more available places that could have been found in Acadie. Poutrincourt, whose fortunes we have here chiefly to follow, soon left his companions in their dreary new home, and sailed for France, with the object of making arrangements for settling his domain of Port Royal. He, however, found his private affairs in such a condition that he was unable to leave at the time he wished. Indeed, very little interest was taken in the new colony, of which very unsatisfactory reports were brought back by Poutrincourt's companions. He himself, however, was very sanguine, as to the future of Acadia, and spoke very eloquently of its varied resources, of the riches in and around its coasts, of the furs in its forests, and of the minerals that doubtless lay beneath its soil. To the King he presented a fine specimen of amethyst, which he and De Monts had picked up in the vicinity of Cape D'Or, in the Bay of Fundy. But this little blue stone was the only evidence Poutrincourt had to show of the mineral wealth of the country. Many centuries were to pass before the world would learn of the existence in Acadia of that precious metal

which has drawn so many adventurers across the sea since the time of Columbus.

While Poutrincourt was still in France, he was surprised to learn of the arrival of De Monts with very unsatisfactory accounts of the state of affairs in the infant colony. The adventurers had very soon found St. Croix entirely unfitted for a permanent settlement, and had removed to the sunny banks of the Annapolis, which was then known as the Equille,* and subsequently as the Dauphin. Poutrincourt and De Monts went energetically to work to obtain assistance for the colony, and though they succeeded in obtaining the services of all the mechanics and laborers they required, their difficulties never ceased until they set sail. The new expedition was necessarily composed of very unruly characters, who constantly broke loose, and sadly offended the staid folks of that orderly bulwark of Calvinism, the town of La Rochelle. Many of the men were in the hands of the authorities, and then, the "Jonas"—not a very auspicious name certainly—a ship of some 150 tons, which had been fitted out by two merchants of La Rochelle, went aground in a heavy storm, and could not be got ready for sea until several weeks later than the day appointed for the departure of the expedition. At last, on the 13th of May, 1606, the "Jonas," with its unruly crew all on board, left for the New World, under the command of De Poutrincourt and L'Escarbot, the latter a Paris advocate, a poet, and an historian, to whom we are indebted for a very sprightly history of early French settlement in America. De Monts was unable to leave with his friend.

The "Jonas" proved false to her name, and took the voyageurs safely across the ocean. Their first sight of the land, on the 15th of July, was under circumstances of a very favorable character, for, in the language of L'Escarbot, "the sky began to salute us, as it were, with cannon-shots, shedding tears,

* Champlain says the river was named after a little fish caught there, "*de la grandeur d'un esplan*;" probably the squid which is used as bait by the fisherman of the Province.