

CHAPTER V.

From "Story of Ville Marie de Montreal" by Miss A. M. Machar.

"Out of this interest came the founding of Montreal as a Mission, in 1642."—*High School History*, page 330.

The little settlement of Quebec, so carefully tended by Champlain amid so many difficulties and disasters, had grown very slowly since his death. His successor, M. de Montmagny, a Knight of Malta, was a fairly good governor, and although without Champlain's enthusiastic devotion, he tried to do his duty towards the settlement and the Mission.

But there were, as yet, very few settlers at Quebec. The new Company of the Hundred Associates had undertaken to send out from France two thousand colonists. But it was not easy to induce many to go to settle in that savage country. Only the self-sacrificing enthusiasm of those devoted men and women who left their homes for the sake of converting the Indian, proved stronger than even the love of gain, and kept life and spirit in the little colony. It was to this enthusiastic missionary devotion that Montreal owed its origin.

A tax-gatherer of Anjou, named Dauversière, and a priest named D'Olier, the founder of the Seminary of the Sulpitians, were inspired with an ardent enthusiasm for establishing an Indian Mission on the island of Montreal. They soon found wealthy friends willing to help to found a mission at this central spot which might throw its light far into the surrounding darkness.

Forty men were sent out to clear and cultivate the land and entrench themselves securely on the spot; while the founders occupied themselves in collecting mission workers. They found an admirable leader in a brave soldier and Christian knight, Paul de Maisonneuve. A devoted lady named Mademoiselle Mance had also become deeply interested in the proposed plan, and resolved to join the mission. There were delays in the start, and the party reached Quebec too late to proceed to Montreal that season.

At last the icy barriers of winter broke before the soft breezes of April, and the deep blue of the river greeted the longing eyes of