

vide each settlement with three Catholic priests, whom they were to support for fifteen years. The cleared land was then to be granted to the Catholic clergy for the maintenance of the church. Certain prerogatives were at the same time reserved to the French king. The principal were, religious supremacy, homage as sovereign of the country, the right of nominating the commandants of forts and the officers of justice, and, on each succession to the throne, the acknowledgment of a crown of gold weighing eight marks. The Company was also invested with the right of conferring titles of distinction, some of which were required to be confirmed by the king. The right to traffic in peltries, and to engage in other commerce, excepting the cod and whale fisheries, was at the same time granted in the charter.

The king of France also presented the Company two ships of war, upon condition that the value should be refunded, if fifteen hundred French inhabitants were not transported into the colonies by their agency within the first ten years. At the same time the descendants of Frenchmen inhabiting Canada, and all savages who should be converted to the Catholic faith, were permitted to enjoy the same privileges as natural-born subjects; and all artificers, sent out by the Company, who had spent six years in the French colonies, were permitted to return and settle in any trading town in France. The charter granting these privileges was executed in 1627, and, under more favorable circumstances, it might have conferred upon the partners solid and permanent advantages. The design was to strengthen the rights of France to the territory which she claimed in North America, while the principal object of the grantees seemed directed to the benefit of themselves by the prosecution of the fur trade.

M. Champlain was soon appointed governor. For the first few years, however, the colony, from various causes connected with its remote position from the parent country, the hardships of the forest and the hostility of the savages, suffered extremely and was almost on the point of breaking down. Ships had been sent out from France for supplies, but they were captured by Sir David Kertk, then in the employment