

in the fate of Canada, or who inscribed their names on the scroll of fame in defending its walls. Its first inhabitants came principally from Normandy, Brittany, Poitou; a hardy, enthusiastic race of peasants, mechanics, and soldiers, rejoicing in having found, on the rich alluvial lands on the banks of the St. Lawrence, comfortable homes for their families, free from the burdensome taxes and land-imposts which oppressed them in the mother country.

On the 3rd July 1608, Samuel de Champlain selected the base of the promontory of Cape Diamond as the site of a town; established an extensive magazine for stores and provisions, and built barracks for the soldiery on the site where now stand the Parliamentary Buildings, near Prescott Gate.

Champlain's rule in Quebec received an unexpected check in 1628.\* War having been declared by England, Sir David Kirk entered the St. Lawrence with a fleet, burned the village of Tadousac, compelled Champlain to surrender his city, and carried him prisoner to England. In 1631, luckily for the fate of the infant colony, that celebrated man was returned to his settlement as governor, the colony having been restored to France by the Treaty of St. Germain-in-Laye. De Champlain died at Quebec on Christmas-day 1635, without leaving any offspring, and was buried in his private chapel, where, if recent discoveries are correct, a portion of his tomb was found in 1867.

The early annals of Quebec exhibit a succession of most sanguinary engagements with the Indian tribes which inhabited the country and the adjoining portion of the con-

\* Champlain's narrative is familiar to many, and the elaborate edition of his journal just issued by the Messrs. Desbarats at Ottawa, with the annotations and glossaries of a learned Professor of the Laval University, will doubtless throw floods of light on the early times of Canada.