

CHAPTER II.

CONQUEST AND SETTLEMENT.

First Settlements.—In 1542, six years after his return from his second voyage, Cartier, with Roberval (rob'-er-val') as the first viceroy of Canada, attempted to found a settlement on the St. Lawrence; but this, with further attempts for several years, ended only in failure, shipwreck and suffering. For nearly fifty years England and France took little interest in a country that promised them neither treasures nor a highway to the riches of the far East. But the true wealth of the country was little by little being found out. Hardy fishermen from Europe—their numbers increasing every year—sought Newfoundland and its banks for the fish that swarmed in these seas; traders and men loving the free wild life of the woods sought in the forests of Canada valuable fur-bearing animals. Thus was laid the foundation of two of our greatest industries—the fisheries and the fur-trade.

The nearness of Newfoundland to England led to the hopes of founding a colony on that island. Between the years 1575 and 1585, it was visited by Martin Frobisher, Sir Francis Drake, and the half-brother of Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Humphrey Gilbert—names well known in England's annals of the sea. Two attempts of Gilbert to found a colony in Newfoundland (1579 and 1583) ended in disaster and death. In attempting to return to England, his little vessel foundered at sea, and he and all on board perished.

The costly furs from the Canadian forests lured the French traders. They bought these furs or pelts from the Indians, paying for them in trinkets, beads, gay-coloured cloths, and "fire-water" (brandy), and selling them at a great profit in France. Great fortunes were thus made. Frequent quarrels arose between rival traders or companies. In return for certain privileges the traders promised to provide settlers; but those who came were left to starve or to care for themselves as best they could. The king, for a certain sum of money, granted at different times to his nobles or to a company the sole right (monopoly) of the fur-trade, on condition that they would found colonies. "The Company of the One