

reached in our chronological survey, it may be of advantage to state the circumstance which led to it. After the discovery of Hudson's Bay the value of the fisheries of that immense inland sea soon became famous. To the value of these fishing-grounds the French, after having possessed themselves of Canada, showed themselves to be by no means indifferent. One of the first Frenchmen to pass over from Canada to the shores of this inland sea was one M. Grosseliez, a bold and enterprising man who, seeing the advantage that might be derived to the French settlements in North America, by possessing themselves of the ports and harbours of Hudson's Bay, prevailed on some of his countrymen at Quebec, about the middle of the seventeenth century, to fit out a ship for the purpose of exploring the coasts of that bay, and proceeded on the expedition himself. Having explored the bay in the neighbourhood of Nelson River, he deputed his brother-in-law to repair to France and lay before the Government a representation of the advantages which might be derived from an establishment on its coasts. The proposal of M. Grosseliez was treated as visionary; but so strongly convinced was he of its advantages that he set out for France himself, where, however, he met with no better success than his brother-in-law. The English minister at Paris—Mr Montague—hearing of the proposal of Grosseliez and of its rejection, sent for the Frenchman to explain his views, and derived so much satisfaction from them that he gave Grosseliez a letter to Prince Rupert in England. Here the French-Canadian met with a most flattering reception. He was immediately engaged to go out in one of his Majesty's ships, not merely to form a settlement in Hudson's Bay, but also to prosecute the oft-attempted passage to China by the north-west. To the command of this vessel Captain Gillam was appointed. He set sail in 1668 with Grosseliez, and is said to have proceeded as far up Davis' Strait as 75°. On his return into Hudson's Bay he entered Rupert's River, 29th September, and prepared to pass the winter there. The river was not frozen over before the 9th December, and the cold is said to have ceased as early as the month of April. Here Captain Gillam laid the foundation of the first English settlement, by building a small stone fort, to which he gave the name of *Fort Charles*.

But Prince Rupert's action in the direction of forming a settlement and trading-station on the great bay did not end here. He obtained from King Charles a charter dated 1669, and granted to himself and several other adventurers therein named, for having, at their own cost and charges, undertaken an expedition to Hudson's Bay, "for the discovery of a new passage into the South Sea, and for the finding of some trade for furs, minerals, and other considerable commodities." The charter stated that they had already made such discoveries as encouraged them to proceed further in pursuance of their said design; and that by means thereof great advantage might probably arise to the king and his dominions; and therefore his Majesty, for