

As it was too late in the season to seek another site for a settlement, Poutrincourt decided to remain the coming winter at Port Royal, and sent laborers to work on the land about a league and a half farther up the Annapolis River, where the French had first thought of making their abode. A second voyage of discovery was made along the New England coast¹ as far south as Martha's Vineyard. Champlain's description of the voyage, and their meetings with the Indians, some of whom proved hostile, and his invaluable record of the character, manners and customs of the aborigines, are full of interest.

On their return to Port Royal² they made preparations for the winter, which proved milder than that of the two preceding years, although the spring was backward. "On the 10th of May it snowed all night, and towards the end of the month there were heavy hoar frosts, which lasted until the 10th or 12th of June, when all the trees were covered with leaves, except the oaks, which do not leaf out until about the 15th."³

Although seven died from the scurvy during the winter of 1606-7, the little company spent the time much more happily than during the previous winters, as the following extract from Champlain's narrative may show :

We spent this winter very pleasantly, and fared generously by means of the ORDRE DE BON TEMPS, which I introduced. This all found useful for their health, and more advantageous than all the medicines that could have been used. By the rules of the order a chain was put, with some little ceremonies, on the neck of one of our company, commissioning him for the day to go a-hunting. The next day it was conferred upon another, and thus in succession. All exerted themselves to the utmost to see who would do the best and bring home the finest game. We found this a very good arrangement, as did also the savages who were with us.⁴

¹ Champlain regrets the decision of Poutrincourt to go over the ground passed by de Monts the year before, instead of sailing directly to Cape Cod, and thence continuing their explorations southward.

² Lescarbot and the others who had stayed there welcomed them with a humorous entertainment, at which a play — *Le Theatre de Neptune* — composed by Lescarbot, was acted.

³ It would be interesting to compare the spring of 1607 with that of 1898. This year, over a fortnight before the dates mentioned by Champlain, the valley of the Annapolis was white with apple blossoms. But seasons vary; and there is no good reason to suppose that any marked change of climate has occurred.

⁴ "The fifteen gentlemen who sat at the table of Poutrincourt, the governor, comprising the whole number of the order, took turns in performing the duties of steward and caterer, each holding the office for a single day. With a laudable ambition, the