

He was made Lieutenant General of the new country, with viceregal powers, and was granted a monopoly of the fur trade, on the basis of which he was able to organize a company to supply the funds for his expedition. Gathering a motley assemblage of gentlemen, artisans and vagabonds, numbering over 120 in all, he embarked them in two amply-stored vessels, of 120 and 150 tons burden, and sailed from France April 7, 1604. With him as King's Geographer, and, as it proved, historian, sailed one of the great men of France, Samuel de Champlain. Their vessel reached Cape La Have on the 8th of May, the other making land at Canso, and proceeded to Port Mouton. Here de Monts remained with the vessel while Champlain, in a little bark of eight tons, explored the coast to the westward, rounded Cape Sable and entered the Bay of Fundy, which later they named La Baye Francoise. He then returned with his report to the commander, and a few days later the vessel was brought safely to anchor in St. Mary's Bay. But from this time on we shall let the narrative tell its own unaided story, reflecting as it does so clearly their joy in adventure and discovery, their pleasure in the finding of diverse new and curious things, and their thankfulness for escape from many a grave danger. It must be remembered that although the Bay of Fundy had been earlier entered by Europeans, it had not been described or mapped; and, from the point of view of common geographical knowledge, it was practically unknown.

The narrative, which ranks among the greatest