

a concession of eight arpents of land in Quebec for a monastery, and a fief of sixty arpents called Ste. Marie, outside the settlement. Six workmen were immediately sent from France with orders to clear the land and prepare for building.

Under the guidance of her spiritual adviser St. Vincent de Paul, the Duchesse d'Aiguillon proceeded to the Hotel Dieu at Dieppe. This institution had been founded in 1155; it was controlled exclusively by the Sisters of St. Augustin, the oldest purely nursing order of nuns in existence; they had rigid rules, were entirely responsible to the clergy, and were practically cloistered.

From this Community three young nuns were chosen by ballot to sail to New France to open a Hotel Dieu under the direction of the Jesuits. The Sisters were to be called "Hospitalières de la Miséricorde de Jésus."

On the morning of the 4th May, 1639, some Ursuline nuns from Tours, with Madame de la Peltrie, joined the Hospitalières at Dieppe. They, too, were coming to New France. Together the Communities attended Mass that day and said farewell to their native land, and together they embarked for the New World.

After an eventful voyage, they reached Quebec on the 1st August. At the water's edge the entire populace, with Montmagny, the Governor, met the Sisters. The Hospitalières, who take precedence of all other communities, stepped ashore first, followed by the Ursulines and Madame de la Peltrie, their Canadian foundress. The little procession walked up the hill (now Mountain Hill) to the Church of Notre Dame de la Recouvrance (burned 1640), where a thanksgiving service was held. The Hospitalières were received into a house in the Upper Town, owned by the Company of One Hundred Associates, and the Ursulines walked back down the hill to take shelter in a rude building on the wharf, where they had landed.

The next day the Sisters inspected their land. The workmen, who had been sent from France months before, had not arrived; the land was swampy and overgrown with brushwood; to clear it and erect a building before winter would be impossible. Therefore, they decided to remain where they were already housed, and they accordingly set out such stores and furnishings as were available.

Hardly were their beds set up, than the Indians, among whom small-pox was prevalent, arrived in such large numbers that temporary sheds and wigwams were put up for them around the nuns' house. The mortality among them was great. The disease increased. Winter, with all its hardships, was upon them. Water was no nearer than the river below the cliff; for meat they were dependent upon *l'original* (moose), which