

discovery of Canada by Cartier, and in the first years of the colony, until Latour's time, fished for cod on the coasts of New France, with the real Acadian colonists, the *primitive families*, as he calls them. All the documents relating to the history of Acadie conclusively prove that the primitive colonists were not "a reunion of brigands," of adventurers "of freebooting habits," nor Acadie "a penal colony." They *roved about* only when banished from their *cultivated* lands; they became soldiers because France refused to defend them against enemies her policy had raised up against them. The first care of the French colonists on their arrival in Acadie was the cultivation of the land. Father Biard and Lescarbot repeatedly inform us of this fact. At Port Royal all kinds of cereals were cultivated thirty-five or forty years before a grain of wheat was sowed in Canada! Lescarbot tells us that Poutrincourt had brought out to Port Royal "a number of joiners, carpenters, masons, stone-cutters, locksmiths, blacksmiths, sawyers, sailors" (1606). Are we to infer from this that he did not bring out farmers also? Lescarbot says that "on the day succeeding his arrival," he himself, with an ardor all the more commendable in a lawyer as he was, began to farm. He praises Poutrincourt highly for the attention he gave to the cultivation of the land, and makes reflections as philosophical as they are diffuse. Again he says: "Poutrincourt having gone to Ile Ste. Croix, found wheat ripened from that which *two years before* De Monts had sowed, which was beautiful, large, heavy and well nourished."* Poutrincourt's voyage took place in 1606. *Two years before* would then correspond with the date of the settlement of Acadie by De Monts. At page 553, of the same volume, Lescarbot writes: "When the public rejoicing had ceased, Poutrincourt took time to see his wheat, which he had sowed, in great part, two leagues from the Fort up the river Dauphin, and also around the said Fort."†

The harvests speak well for the care bestowed on the cultivation of the soil: soon they were obliged to construct a mill to grind their grain, "because the hand-mills demanded too much labor,"‡ and, on his return to France, Lescarbot carried with him ears of wheat to show the great fertility of the soil of Acadie. To under-

* Lescarbot, Vol. II., p. 527. † The testimony of Fr. Biard is as formal.

‡ Lescarbot, Vol. II., p. 560.