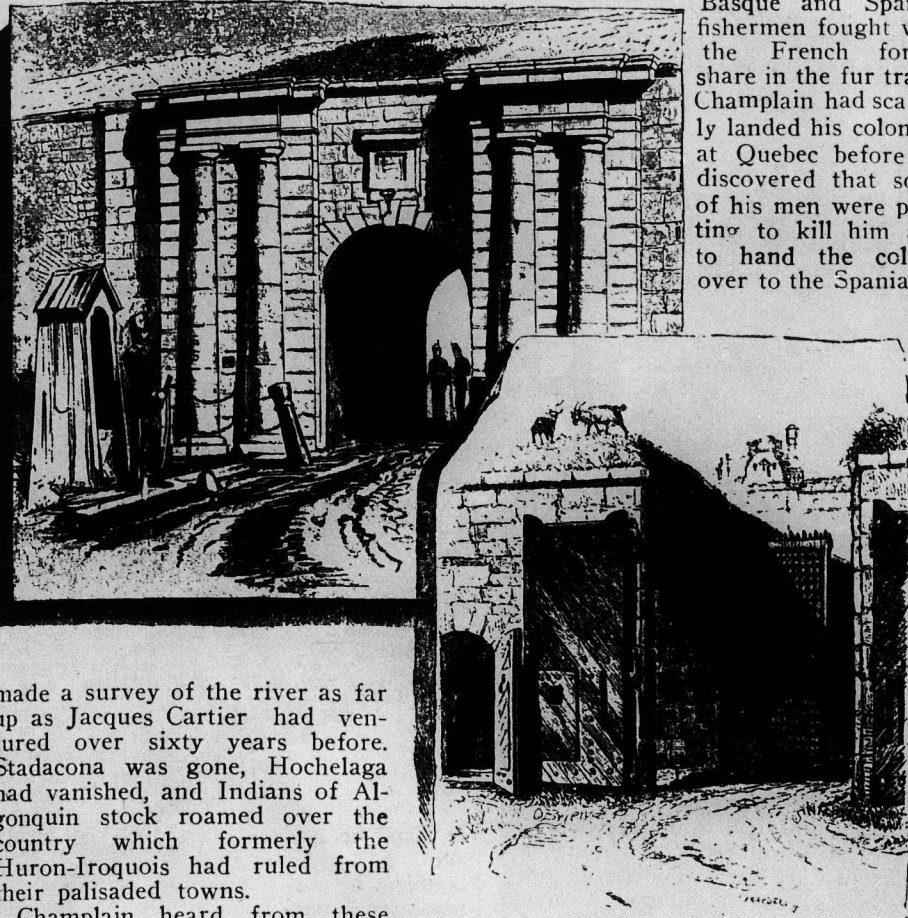




Gates of the Citadel.

made a survey of the river as far up as Jacques Cartier had ventured over sixty years before. Stadacona was gone, Hochelaga had vanished, and Indians of Algonquin stock roamed over the country which formerly the Huron-Iroquois had ruled from their palisaded towns.

Champlain heard from these Algonquins vague stories of the streams and skies beyond the rapids of Lachine (Sault St. Louis). But, although he was delighted with the region through which he passed, he made no attempt on this occasion to establish a settlement.

Meanwhile a French noble named de Monts had secured a monopoly of the fur trade. His scheme of colonization was planned for Acadia, by which name Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and a great part of the State of Maine were for many years known.

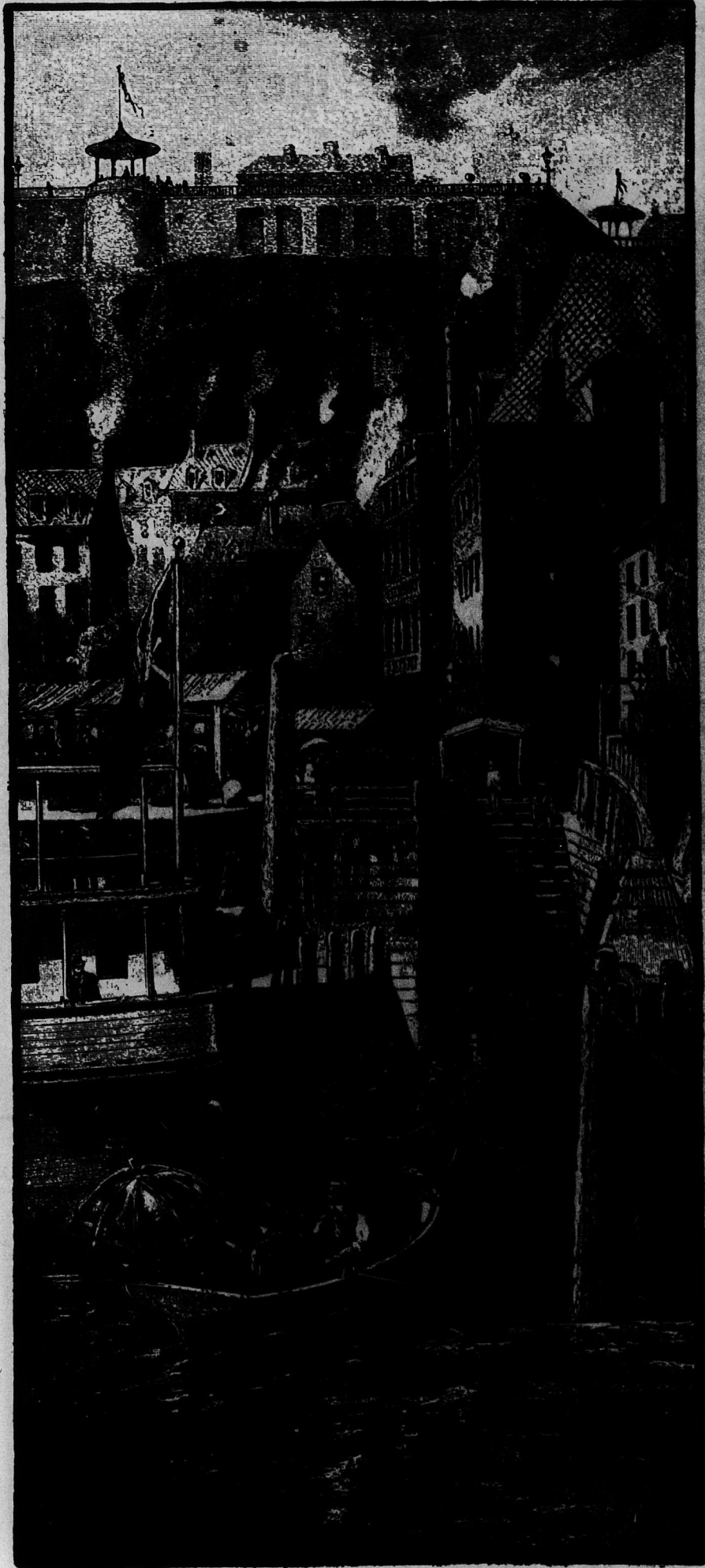
Champlain was again sent by the King with the expedition, which was led by de Monts in person. There were also on board others of the French noblesse, besides artisans, laborers and clergymen both Catholic and Protestant, for the colony was to be founded on the principle of religious freedom. Poutrincourt, one of the expedition, was particularly pleased with the scene that lay before the ship's company in Annapolis Basin (called by them Port Royal) and he persuaded de Monts to grant to him the surrounding country. The colony itself, however, was first planted on the rock island of St. Croix (now Doucett's or Neutral Island), at the mouth of the river St. Croix, which forms part of the present boundary line between New Brunswick and the State of Maine. Here a somewhat pretentious array of forts, barracks and officers' quarters were constructed. Here, too, after a summer spent in exploring the coast, Champlain wintered (1604-1605) with de Monts and his colonists. Penned in upon the small island, the little party fell a prey to scurvy, and nearly one-half of them were dead before spring. After a vain search southward along the New England coast for a spot to their liking, it was determined to remove the colony to Port Royal, where, after erecting the necessary buildings, the diminished colony passed the next two years.

Meanwhile de Monts had secured a fresh monopoly for one year on condition that Champlain should plant a colony on the St. Lawrence as a base for further exploration westward. At the mouth of the St. Charles, where Jacques Cartier had first wintered more than seventy years before, Quebec, oldest of American cities, was founded in 1608 under the shadow of Cape Diamond on the narrow strand between rock and water. The name "Quebec" signifies a strait, for here the St. Lawrence pours its rapid flood through a contracted channel between Cape Diamond on the north and the rocky heights of Point Lévis on the south. Down at Tadoussac River

Basque and Spanish fishermen fought with the French for a share in the fur trade. Champlain had scarcely landed his colonists at Quebec before he discovered that some of his men were plotting to kill him and to hand the colony over to the Spaniards.

The ringleader of the plot was hanged, and his chief accomplices were sent to France to expiate their crime in the galleys. The winter of 1608-1609 was one of extreme severity, and the scurvy so thinned the ranks that out of twenty-eight men only eight survived until spring. From this time Champlain's attention was devoted chiefly to the colony at Quebec. Of further exploration by him westward we have no record. For a time, after de Monts' monopoly expired the trade of the St. Lawrence had been free to all comers, and in 1611 Champlain had met as many as thirteen rival trading vessels at Montreal, a favorite rendezvous for the Algonquins of the Ottawa. But a trading company was soon formed and to it a new monopoly was given. Champlain found that this monopoly was a sore hindrance to colonization, for none but the company's employees found a welcome at Quebec. During summer all was life and bustle; during winter all was stagnation and oftentimes nearly starvation among the few settlers. Hébert, who came in 1617, was the only one who tilled the soil to any purpose, using oxen first in 1628. That Champlain himself was honestly eager for the colonization of New France is shown by the fact that in 1620 he brought out his young wife, who lived at Quebec for four years. On the heights beyond the little settlement Fort St. Louis was built, facing the river from the edge of the rocky plateau on which now lies the upper Town of Quebec.

In 1628 war broke out between England and France and a fleet was sent out by the former under David Kirke to take possession of New France. Sailing up to Tadoussac, he sent a courteous summons to Champlain to surrender Quebec. Though the colony was nearly starved and its puny fort but a poor defence, Champlain put on a bold front and sent so determined a message back to Kirke that he refrained that year from attacking the place. Off Tadoussac, however, he met a powerful French fleet which had been sent out with supplies and colonists for Quebec. In the battle which followed Kirke was victorious, capturing many of the ships and destroying the rest. Satisfied with his booty he sailed for England. Quebec, reduced to feed on roots, dragged out a miserable winter; and when Kirke returned next year (1629) Champlain in despair surrendered the colony. Its total population at this time scarcely reached one hundred, so blighting had been the effects of the monopoly. For the



Looking up from the Wharves.—Quebec.

next three years Quebec was occupied by an English garrison, who made much profit out of the fur trade during their stay and gained some knowledge of the regions to the west. With the peace of St. Germain-en-Laye (1632), New France was restored to the French King for a consideration of £10,000. Champlain's life work was nearly done. He returned indeed to Quebec in 1633 as governor, built a fort at Three Rivers (1634) and set on foot plans for further western exploration. His health, however, failed and he asked for his recall. Before his successor could be named a kindly fate closed his eyes in death on Christmas Day, 1635, while he was still governor of that New France to which his life had been devoted.

QUEBEC AS IT IS TO-DAY.

There is not a spot in all America richer in historic treasure, or more lavishly endowed by Nature in the beauty, grandeur and splendor of its surroundings, than this quaint old

walled city, which, guarding the portal of the great inland waters of the continent, has not inaptly been termed the "Sentinel city of the St. Lawrence." Historically, as has already been shown, it stands pre-eminent, as it was here that the two greatest of the old-world monarchies battled for half a continent and even now the old fortifications are still to be seen. It is of Quebec that Charles Dickens, writing of his visit sixty-five years ago said: "The impression made upon the visitor by this Gibraltar of America, its giddy heights, its citadel suspended, as it were, in the air; its picturesque, steep streets and frowning gateways and the splendid views which burst upon the eye at every turn is at once unique and everlasting. It is a place not to be forgotten." Of the many places of interest in and around Quebec, mention must first be made of the Plains of Abraham. Here was the battlefield where Wolfe fell and Montcalm fought his last fight. The plain is the tableland on the crest of the heights on the north bank of the