

called, even after they had become Christians, but the word did not refer to their dispositions but to their life in the forests. Bien-court, in a measure, rebuilt his ruined post, and in 1618 wrote to the authorities of the city of Paris urging upon them the advantages of establishing fortified posts in Acadie to defend it from the incursions of the English, who continued hostile. It was very evident that French occupancy of this continent was not to be had without a stern contest with English claimants, who fell back upon Cabot's discoveries as the moral ground of their contention. In 1621 James I was King, and Sir William Alexander, a favorite courtier, could get most anything he dared ask for. He was a younger son of a large landed proprietor in Scotland, and having some talent for writing dramas and verses was able to flatter the pedantic monarch by praising the royal performances in that line. In 1621 Sir William applied to the King for a grant of Acadie, for the purpose of colonizing it on a large scale. He had no difficulty in securing what no one but himself and his associates wanted; and in his patent the region was called Nova Scotia for the first time, in a formal fashion. It was then a large unlimited domain, of which neither the King nor anyone else in the British Isles knew very much; but they had stores of misinformation. Before this scheme got into practical shape James paid the debt of nature, and Charles reigned in his stead. He confirmed the grant of his father and founded the order of the Knights of Nova Scotia, that resulted in neither good nor harm. This was in 1624. It is currently reported that at this date an expedition had been sent out and made no landing, but returned with the report that the French were everywhere strongly in possession. If that was the case, matters were later in better shape, and a new start was made by certain London merchants under the patronage of Alexander. Among them was Gervase Kirke, an Englishman of Derbyshire who had long resided in Dieppe, and there married a French woman, who bore him at least three sons of more than ordinary spirit and enterprise. Three small armed ships were fitted out and commanded respectively by the three brothers, David, Lewis, and Thomas Kirke. Letters of marque were obtained and the adventurers were authorized to drive out the French from Acadia and Canada. Many Huguenot refugees were among the crews. Having been expelled from New France as settlers, the persecuted sect embraced this opportunity to return