

## PIERRE ESPRIT RADISSON

Charlevoix (II., 302), *viz.*, "that at the request of his father-in-law, Sir John Kirke, Radisson received from the King a pension of 1200 livres, which he enjoyed till the end of his days." Of course Charlevoix was speaking from French hearsay, and had never seen the English State papers or the Company's books.

How did he die? Gilbert Parker in "The Trail of the Sword," tells us "he was done to death by the dagger and pistol of the mutineer Buckland; and was buried in the hungry sea." He had previously, according to the novelist, "attempted the life of Frontenac and had sold a company of French traders to the Iroquois." According to Bryce this tragic death of Radisson must have occurred in 1689; but it is all pure fiction, for in the beginning of 1710 he was still in England, drawing a salary from his employers. That he died there is generally admitted, but the circumstances of his death have never been found out nor is there any trace of his grave. None can be found in the Protestant church of St. Olave, near which he once lived and which there are monuments to many of his former friends and associates. "He was a Catholic and an alien," writes the author of "The Conquest of the Great Northwest," and it is useless now to expect to find his tomb in that place.

What became of his family? Bryce is of the opinion, though he does not say why, that they came to Canada. The question suggests itself: if they had not been Catholics would they have presented themselves in such a Catholic settlement?

There is a very precious document, which we have had in our hand, but which Mr. Bryce in all probability never saw, which at first sight would furnish an argument to support his assertion about the coming of Radisson's children to America. It is a catalogue of the original Men's Sodality of Montreal. It must have been a distinguished body, for on the list we find such names as Baron de Longueuil, M. de Tonty, La Salle's companion, M. le Gouverneur, M. le Commandant, etc. It was found in 1703; and in 1709 the name of the Prefect was