

against those attacked, for the most part it either distorts or interprets unfavourably the events recorded. Before the facts as given can be accepted, they must be corroborated from other sources which here are usually wanting unfortunately. Thus of Biard's personal habits we know nothing, so that whether at a banquet on the voyage out he drank more than was good for him¹ must remain a matter of conjecture. In any case the fact is one of extremely slight importance. The whole strength of the case against the Jesuits lies in the fact that in becoming partners in the enterprise they lowered the dignity of their spiritual office; the act of excommunication against their fellow-shareholders only made the matter more ridiculous.

In conclusion a word as to the author of this document. That it was not Lescarbot seems almost certain, for he was doubtless still in Switzerland and the style is not that of the author of the *History of New France*. If one might hazard an hypothesis, I should be inclined to name Simon Imbert, one of Poutrincourt's agents and according to Biard an old Parisian publican.² It is singular indeed that this man was present at nearly all the incidents related. On the voyage out he was not only on board but gave up his room to Massé.³ He was therefore fully aware of all that had taken place at Dieppe and was also a spectator of Biard's interference at Port St. John and Port Royal.⁴ It seems doubtful whether he was present at Ste. Croix and the river St. John,⁵ unless the vessel had not yet returned to France, for he seems to have been on board on the return voyage to Port Royal in order to report so faithfully the conversation of Du Thet.⁶ He is thus able also to give full particulars as to the dispute about the cargo. Moreover certain incidents are related in the *Factum* of which Imbert alone could have had knowledge. Thus we are told what he said in confession to Father Massé.⁷

¹ *Ibid.* p. 14.

² Thwaites, *The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents*, iii 242.

³ Marcel's reprint, p. 39.

⁴ *Ibid.* pp. 17 *et seq.*

⁵ *Ibid.* pp. 22 *et seq.*

⁶ *Ibid.* pp. 34 *et seq.*

⁷ *Ibid.* p. 37.