

The Voyages of Sieur de Champlain

VOLUME II—BOOK IV

CHAPTER I

Departure from France; what took place up to the time of our arrival at St. Louis Rapids.

I LEFT Rouen on the 5th of March,¹ to go to Honfleur, where I set sail; and on May 7 I reached Quebec, where I found those who had passed the winter there in good spirits and having had no illnesses. They told us that the winter had not been severe, and that the river had not frozen. The trees were beginning, too, to reclothe themselves with leaves, and the fields to be decked with flowers.

On the 13th I left Quebec, to go to the Sault St. Louis,² where I arrived on the 21st. Then, as we had only two canoes, I could take only four men with me. Among them was one named Nicolas de Vignau, the boldest liar that had been seen for a

¹March 5, 1613.

²The Lachine Rapids at Montreal.