

and the numerous bays and rivers abounded with a variety of fish. A still greater advantage was, that its harbors were accessible at all seasons of the year.

The choice of a location being made, a settlement was commenced, named Port Royal (now Annapolis) ; but notwithstanding its auspicious beginning, the expectations of its patrons and friends were not realized in at once rearing a flourishing establishment : indeed, for many years it had but a languishing existence, as influences were at work unfavorable to its interests.

The Sieur de Monts now turned his whole attention to Canada, in hope of extending the French possessions in America, and of finding the long sought passage to India ; which dream was still cherished. An expedition was now fitted out, one vessel of which was to traffic at Tadousac ; while the other under command of Champlain, was to land colonists and form a settlement at some point on the St. Lawrence. It arrived at Stadaconé early in July, and landed at what is now known as the " Lower Town " in Quebec, when the men at once commenced the erection of cabins for temporary accommodation. While some were engaged in this work, others were building a fort, and others still, in clearing land ; and thus the foundation of a town was laid in the presence of wondering savages. \*

---

\* The derivation of the name Quebec, has been the subject of discussion and dispute, but Champlain distinctly says: " We landed at a place which the Indians called *Kébec*, in their language signifying a *strait* " ; and we have other authority for believing the name to be of native origin.