

Having suffered from the severity of the season and the annoyance of the Indians, who opposed the advance of the French, he soon re-embarked his colony for France. On his way back he met Roberval on the banks of Newfoundland, with vessels laden with men, provisions, and arms; and returning with him to the fort, he assumed the command while Roberval sailed up the St. Lawrence. No authentic accounts, bearing directly on the exploration of Canada for the space of sixty years from that time, have come down to us, excepting the disastrous expedition of the Marquis de la Roche, and the voyages of M. de Chauvin to Tadousac, about the year 1600; domestic troubles, covering the French empire with gloom, swept all projects of foreign discovery from the face of the kingdom.*

At length a company of merchants was formed at Rouen, through the agency of M. Pontgrave, an intelligent partner in a house at St. Malo, and M. Chatte, the governor of Dieppe, for the purpose of foreign colonization. This Company was invested with the same privileges which had before been granted to la Roque for the purpose of exploring the country and establishing colonies along the St. Lawrence. Samuel Champlain, who was a partner in the Company, led the expedition in 1603, and in 1608 this energetic and hardy pioneer had founded the city of Quebec.† The design of this Company was to reap the profits of the fur trade, as the wilderness abounded with the fur-bearing animals; and a spot having been selected for his colonial establishment, Champlain left at that point a few settlers, who soon commenced building rude huts and clearing the lands.

The foundation of the hatred of the Iroquois Confederacy towards the French, whose wars with the Colonists are identified with the early history of New France, was, doubt-

* The following is said to be the origin of the name of Canada, although it is a doubtful question. When the Spanish first visited the country in pursuit of gold, they remarked in their disappointment *Aca-nada*, here is nothing. These words were so often repeated to the French by the Indians, that it was believed to be the name of the country.

† Quebec, says Charlevoix, is derived from *Quebeis*, an Algonquin word signifying a strait.