

bartering for furs with the Indians ; and thus a staple trade was established. This trade soon assumed rather large dimensions. Great numbers of adventurers now went out from France, and settled along both shores of the St. Lawrence, penetrating some hundreds of miles up the river. The new territory now became called New France. These adventurers did not go out, as with us, of their own individual initiative. They rather formed part of powerful expeditions under the command of men of rank and influence. This lessened their independence, no doubt, but it gave them more cohesion.

The fur trade :
origin
and rise.

They seem to have got on very well with the Indians at first. About sixty years after Jacques Cartier, came a French naval officer named Champlain. Champlain was an able man ; he founded the City of Quebec on the north bank of the St. Lawrence, just on the west side of the Isle of Orleans, and pushed his explorations many miles further up the river. Quebec ultimately became the capital of the immense province of that name.

Champlain.

The city
of
Quebec.
1608.

There was a reason for choosing this site for the young city, now an old city. It is the narrowest part of the river for hundreds of miles in either direction, thus affording the easiest communication with the opposite shore. A little river runs in here, providing shelter for small craft. The harbourage is very fine, the river-side being deep enough for large ships. Added to this the location is very strong, there being a lofty rocky promontory constituting an easily defensible position against the attacks of Indians or other enemies. That French naval officer of old days knew what he was about.

An advantageous
position.

The founding of the city of Quebec is considered the starting point of the permanent French settlement and colony. France now claimed sovereignty over an enormous but ill-defined stretch of territory, consisting of the districts forming the eastern part of the present Dominion of Canada. Those old French adventurers must have done their work well ; for to this very day, although these districts have been a

The
starting
point.