

of Orleans. But the colonists were badly chosen, being, in fact, to a great extent, the refuse of the gaols, and the projected settlement proved a total failure. The fourth and last voyage, in 1543, was merely undertaken to bring back the remains of this miserable colony.

The next great attempts at colonization made by the French were in a different direction. Successive expeditions were fitted out for the coast of Florida, under Ribaut in 1562, and under Laudonnière in 1564, and Gourgues in 1567. In one of them no less than 600 settlers were taken out; but they all miserably failed, either from dissensions amongst the colonists themselves or from the hostility of the Spaniards.

Ever since Cartier's time a connection had been kept up by the French with the St. Lawrence, and trading voyages had been made to Tadousac, which was, and long continued to be, the head-quarters of the trade. The Indians used to assemble there from the adjoining parts, and even from as far in the interior as Lake Huron, carrying across from the head-waters of the Ottawa to those of the Saguenay. Even as late as 1670, Charlevoix says that there were rarely less than 1,200 Indians encamped about Tadousac in the trading season. In later times Montreal and Three Rivers vied with it as the emporiums of trade; but in those early days the French never went higher up the St. Lawrence than Tadousac. There were even some attempts to establish a permanent post there, but none of them were successful.

In 1603 the real founder of Canada first appears on the scene. The Commandeur de Chaste, having received a commission to that effect, sent out an expedition to make a permanent settlement on the St. Lawrence, and Champlain was one of his captains on a preliminary voyage. They reached Montreal for the first time since the days of Cartier, and even advanced across the Lachine rapids to take a