

himself and his workmen, on that lonely headland, was exactly in the position where his talents could shine to advantage. And such was his energy, and so masterly his tact in pushing work home to its completion, that according to the testimony of men who watched carefully all his doings, he developed the resources of the Island more in one year than the company of St. Pierre had done in all the years it had borne sway.

Meanwhile, through the hot summer months with unflagging vigor, the work went on, and in the late autumn, when the woods were still shedding their leaves, the headland presented a changed aspect. From a considerable tract the forest had disappeared, and three solidly-built dwelling-houses, capable of accommodating all the servants of the company, and a spacious warehouse, where provisions and other necessities were stored, rose up—the first human habitations by these nameless streams. Nor were the zeal and energy of De Roma confined to Trois Rivières. The venture to the Indies was not crowned with the success which its projector anticipated, and the shareholders of the company in France were violent in their condemnation of the enterprise. As an attempt to establish mercantile intercourse between colonies of the same nation, in need of each other's products, it was pronounced encouraging by men well-versed in such matters, and fully conversant with all the circumstances. But trading companies in those days were apt to regard as wasted what did not yield immediate profit, and to chafe at the slow growth of legitimate trade.

There can be little doubt but that the project of De Roma, as minutely described by himself, contemplated nothing short of making this establishment at Trois Rivières the emporium of trade on the Island. From it were to issue all the supplies that fishermen might need, and into it, in payment, was to come the fish caught by the fishermen. It was a mercantile arrangement that looked fair and advantageous to both the parties concerned. As things then were, the project was an undoubted boon to the Island, and received the warm support of the Government officials.

In committing his plans to paper, there is nothing on which De Roma lays such stress as economy. And what he inculcated