

likely, he would of course have been the first physician to visit these shores.

The stay of de Monts and Champlain in St. John was very brief, as they soon proceeded to the River St. Croix, New Brunswick, to search for a locality suitable for a settlement. St. Croix Island was selected and the remainder of the expedition joined them there. As it proved, they were unfortunate in their choice. The situation of a settlement on an island prevented them, at some seasons of the year, having free access to the mainland for a supply of water and food; there was much illness resulting from their mode of living during the winter of 1604-5. Champlain gives an interesting account of the severe and fatal illness which appeared among the colonists. He says: "During the winter many of our company were attacked by a certain malady called the *mal de terre*, otherwise scurvy, as I have since heard from learned men. There were produced in the mouths of those who had it, great pieces of superfluous and drivelling flesh (causing extensive putrefaction) which got the upper hand to such an extent that scarcely anything but liquid could be taken. Their teeth became very loose and could be pulled out with the fingers without its causing them pain. The superfluous flesh was often cut out, which caused them to eject much blood through the mouth. Afterwards a violent pain seized their arms and legs, which remained swollen and very hard, all spotted as if with flea bites; and they could not walk on account of the contraction of the muscles, so that they were almost without strength and suffered intolerable pains. They experienced pain also in the loins, stomach and bowels, had a very bad cough and short breath. In a word they were in such a condition that the majority of them could not even be raised up on their feet without falling down in a swoon. So that out of seventy-nine who composed our party thirty-five died, and more than twenty were on the point of death. The majority of those who remained well also complained of slight pains and short breath. We were unable to find any remedies for these maladies.

"A post-mortem examination was made of several bodies to investigate the cause of their malady. In the case of many, the interior parts were found mortified, such as the lungs, which were so changed that no natural fluid could be perceived in them. The spleen was serous and swollen. The liver was woody and spotted without its natural color. The vena cava, superior and inferior, was filled with thick coagulated and black blood. The gall was tainted. Nevertheless many arteries, in the middle as well as lower bowels, were found in good condition."