

POUTRINCOURT

AND PORT ROYAL.

1. THE misfortunes suffered by the early discoverers did not prevent other men trying to follow in their steps. Englishmen and Frenchmen alike tried to make good their claims to the possession of North America, and we are now coming to a time when the people of both races began to make permanent settlements. The man whose name is at the top of this page was not a very notable explorer, but I have chosen to tell his story because he had much to do with the first settlement in our own Province of Nova Scotia.

2. Jean de Biencourt, Baron de Poutrincourt, was a French nobleman who had fought in a civil war between the Roman Catholics and Protestants. He was a Catholic, and he fought so bravely that the king, Henry IV (then a Protestant), tried to induce him to change sides by offering him a dukedom. Poutrincourt refused, but afterwards the king became a Roman Catholic, and then Poutrincourt served him faithfully.

3. Poutrincourt lost much of his property during the war, and when it ended he went to live quietly on his estate at Saint Just, in the eastern part of France. He was fond of gardening and farming and was trying hard to improve his lands, when an old friend—a Huguenot nobleman, called the Sieur de Monts,—visited him and suggested that he should altogether change his plans.

4. It appeared that the king had given De Monts a great slice of North America on condition that he should