

ostacle the cov-
last voyage Co-
long the shore
ge. Ten years
ng ridge of the
Sea; with this
at we now call
continent. Ma-
that it was.

e might not be
ge. The Span-
n shore of the
noticed the out-
ure of gold in
t of the Missis-
om the north a

ook wistfully to
Cabot had been
e a great gulf.
of the English;
dden mysteries
the most part
ation which sep-
n. The French
ew that for the
ffered a mar-
n was forbidden.
eamen from the

Norman and Breton ports, and the Basques from the Bay of Biscay, increased yearly in numbers in the waters contiguous to this northern gulf, until its wonders and allurements had become a familiar story in the maritime towns of France. These adventurous fishermen brought away from this insular region some charts, which in a few cases have come down to us. Their hydrographical surmises gave Cartier the incentive to try the hazards of the watery expanse that lay to the west of Newfoundland. As the doughtiest mariner of his day, Cartier could hardly have vaulted over the rail of any one of these returned fishing craft in the harbor of St. Malo, where he lived, without having his attention called in such maps to the inviting portals of this western mystery. From the first voyage of Cartier in 1534, France had before her nearly a hundred and forty years of trial, before she was satisfied that she could never reach China by the valley of the St. Lawrence.

The story of this interval is one of pluck and hardihood. The adventurer, the trader, and the priest struggled for the lead; and now it was one, and now the other, who fixed a trading post or built a bark chapel farther than before on the way to Cathay. They pushed west by the Ottawa and Lake Nipissing to Georgian Bay, and yearly the lusty woodsmen led back to Montreal, Three Rivers, and Quebec, a native flotilla of fur-laden canoes. They pushed on to Lake Superior, and one adventurous spirit had found his