

CHAPTER I.

CARTIER AND THE ST. LAWRENCE

"He told them of the river, whose mighty current gave
Its freshness for a hundred leagues to Ocean's briny
wave ;

He told them of the glorious scene presented to his
sight

What time he reared the cross and crown on Hoche-
laga's height,

And of the fortress cliff that keeps of Canada the key,
And they welcomed back Jacques Cartier from his
perils over sea."

—HON. T. D'ARCY MCGEE.

Almost four hundred years ago, when bluff King Hal ruled over Merry England and Francis over Sunny France, there were strange stories told in the ports of the west of England and the north of France of lands away to the Westward. The voyage of Columbus was the talk of Europe, and while the Spaniards were joyfully telling how he had come to the edge of a great new world which would give them a new route to the marvellous East with all its treasures, John Cabot, of the port of Bristol, the pioneer of English adventurers, sailed off to the west and it is likely saw the continent itself as soon as did Columbus. Both Columbus and