

Indians north-west of Lake Superior to James Bay. He returned to Quebec by the same route, and proposed to some merchants there to pilot an expedition to the great Bay. Meeting with no encouragement he went to France, but with a like result. He then went to England, where his offer was accepted, and he and Radisson conducted an English expedition, under Gillam, a New England captain, to the mouth of the River Nemiscaut[†] on the *south-east* side of James Bay, where they built Fort Charles on the Rupert river.[‡]

M. de Denonville, in his memoir, thus refers to the movements of the English in these territories about the same time: he says "the settlement made by the English in 1662 at the head (*fonds*) of the North Bay, (*Baye du Nord*), does not give them any title, because it has been already remarked, that the French were in possession of those countries, and had traded with the Indians of that Bay. * * * They had traded there, no doubt, with the old French *Coueurs de Bois*," or "runners of the woods," *i.e.*: white trappers.

M. Talon, the Royal Intendant of New France, in a memoir addressed to Colbert, in November, 1670, evidently refers to the arrival of this memorable expedition:—"I learn," said he, "by the return of the Algonquins, who will winter this year at Tadoussac, that two European vessels have been seen very near Hudson's Bay, where they wigwam, (*cabanent*) as the Indians express it. After reflecting upon all the nations that might have penetrated as far north as that, I can light only on the English, who, under the guidance of a man named De Grozeliers, formerly an inhabitant of Canada, might possibly have attempted its navigation—of itself not much known and not less dangerous."

CHARTER FROM CHARLES II. TO THE ENGLISH HUDSON BAY CO.

With a view to promote trade with the aborigines residing on the shores of the Bay, and to do away with the intermediary system of traffic with the Ottawa Indians for the Hudson Bay furs, Talon further adds in his memoir:—"I intend despatching thither overland some man of resolution to invite the Kilistinons, who are in great numbers in the vicinity of that Bay, to come down to see us, as the Outawas do, in order that we may have the first pick of what the latter savages bring us, who, acting as pedlars between those nations and us, make us pay for a round-about of three or four hundred leagues."

[†] Governor de Callières in his memoir to the French minister, in 1685, fixes the site of the first English fort, or "settlement," at the Nelson or Bourbon River. This river is at the *west* side of Hudson's Bay. Governor Denonville in his memoir to the minister, dated the following year, fixes the site at the head (*fonds*) of the Bay.

[‡] O Callaghan: Doc. Colonial History of New York, vol. ix., page 977.