

much absorbed in practical benevolence to become the prey of illusions, they were models of that benign and tender charity of which the Roman Catholic Church is so rich in examples."

The first white man to behold Quebec was Jacques Cartier, the Breton Navigator, who spent the Winter of 1535 on the banks of the St. Lawrence under terrible conditions. On the banks of the St. Charles he planted the symbol of the Christian religion, and the following spring he returned to France with the few of his company who had survived the scurvy. In 1541 Jacques Cartier again visited Canada, taking shelter at Cap Rouge, where Roberval had previously fortified himself in a vain attempt to establish a stronghold.

With the passing of Cartier and Roberval, a silence, lasting over half a century, fell upon the whole region from Stadacona to Hochelaga. Even the Iroquois abandoned their villages. Sixty years later, when Champlain sighted Cape Diamond, he found only solitude and the ruins of the fort left by Cartier. In this year, 1608, Champlain laid the foundations of the City of Quebec. The first building was called "l'Abitation"; it was erected on the river-front, near the site of the present church of Notre Dame des Victoires, and it served as a temporary residence for the Governor as well as for a store-house for supplies from France and for furs bought from Indians. An original drawing of l'Abitation by Champlain's own hand still exists and has been reproduced in his works.

With Champlain's company was a doctor named Bonnerme, who died within the year (1608) of either scurvy or dysentery.

Up to 1615 the colony consisted of the fortified post and a few cabins about the palisades; the entire population was less than fifty persons, chiefly traders, for the fear of death unshriven contributed to tentative settlement only.

During this year Champlain re-visited France and brought back with him four Recollet Friars, who speedily raised their altar and celebrated the first Mass ever said in Canada.

Soon after the arrival of the priests, the first settlers with their families came to Quebec. Among them were Abraham Martin (after whom the Plains of Abraham were named), Pierre Desportes, Nicolas Pivert, and Louis Hébert, an apothecary, who followed Champlain from Port Royal.

It is interesting here to note that the first resident medical man of whom we find authentic record was Adrien Duchesne, a surgeon of Dieppe. He must have emigrated previous to 1620, since in that year he was among the residents to meet Madame Champlain when she reached Quebec.