

where the little ship "Jonas," commanded by Captain Poutrincourt, is engaged in discharging her complement of passengers, mostly hailing from La Rochelle. Among the band of newly arrived immigrants there is one sturdy figure which I want you to study well, for it is the figure of Louis Hébert, the pioneer physician of Nouvelle France.

We can imagine this young fellow fresh and enthusiastic, as he strides along, gazing with curious and occasionally amused eyes, on the strange sights surrounding him on every side, and startled when addressed by some wild looking Coureur de Bois or fur-trader whose semi Indian attire, and savage bearing, seemed so inharmoniously to blend with the language of France.

From what we are told by L'Escarbot, the historian of the expedition, very little if any serious work was done at Port Royal during the succeeding fall and winter. Hunting and feasting, in which doubtless our great grandfather bore his part, were the chief occupations of the little colony, and it was only when the wine and kindred supplies became exhausted, that the associates of the "Jonas" dropped into the current setting towards Quebec, and with them drifted in the following spring, Dr. Louis Hébert.

Quebec at this time and even for some years before, had been merely a fur-trading centre, frequented by roving bands of Frenchmen, who came to barter with the Indians.

Hébert besides practising his profession of physician, seems also to have engaged in ordinary business enterprises, for we are told by Abbé Ferland that he "began in 1617, to grub up, and clear the ground, which forms the site of the present Catholic Cathedral and Seminary, and constructed a house and the first mill erected in the colony," thus becoming not only the premier citizen of Quebec, but also of all Canada—and here it may be well to note that the first time a notary's services were put into requisition in Canada, was at the instance of the heirs of Hébert the physician—thus proving that in this country, the profession of medicine ante-dated that of law.

Contemporary with Hébert was the surgeon Bonnerme, who came with Samuel de Champlain, when the latter founded Quebec, in 1606. Evidently all was not peace in the camp of Champlain, for shortly after his arrival, some of his followers hatched a murderous plot against the life of the great navigator, the scheme, however, leaked out, the ring-leader was arrested, found guilty, and executed. In some way or other, Bonnerme became mixed up in the matter, and suffered imprisonment, but subsequently his innocence being proved, he was honorably acquitted, our profession thereby fortunately avoiding the distinction, of contributing to the first judicial hanging held