

Cartier was at that time told by the natives, that the right and ready way to Saguenay was west-north-west; and that there were people, far distant in that region, who were clad as the French, and lived in towns, who were very honest, and had "great stores" of gold and copper; that there were westward *three great lakes* and a *sea of fresh water* (probably Lake Superior), of which no man had found the end; that there was a certain river running south-west, (the Mississippi,) of which there was a month's sailing to go down to a certain land, where there was no ice or snow, where the inhabitants continually warred against one another, and where there was a great abundance "of oranges, almonds, nuts, and apples.*"

Erecting a cross and shield emblazoned with the arms of France, the emblem of the state and church, denoting that the French king was the rightful discoverer of the country, Cartier named the region New France. On the 5th of October the French mariner left the village of Hochelaga, and spent the winter on the river St. Croix. The representations of Cartier, who was known to possess a candor equal to his energy and judgment, somewhat checked the progress of French enterprise. The country which he visited abounded with no gold or precious stones, and its shores were alleged to be bleak and stormy. In consequence, the project of colonization was not renewed until about four years after his return to France, which occurred during the next summer.

In 1540, François de la Roche, Seigneur de Roberval, was granted an extensive charter by Francis I. which covered the whole of that region, and it invested him with all the power possessed by the French king within its bounds. During the summer of that year, Roberval sailed for America, with a squadron of five vessels under the supreme naval command of Cartier. This voyage was effected without any serious accident, and a fort was erected on some part of the coast now unknown, of which Cartier was left commandant.

* That region is supposed to be Florida. Among other articles of curious workmanship, which were presented to Cartier, was a great knife of red copper, which came from Saguenay.