

to moving sand-banks and the strong currents at the mouth of the Seine, that the old historic port was abandoned in favor of Le Havre.



The voyage was a prosperous one, and a month after, May 25th, feast of the Translation of the body of St. Francis of Assisi, they cast anchor in the Gulf of the St. Lawrence opposite Tadoussac.

Tadoussac was the first spot on Canadian soil to receive the Franciscan Missionaries. It was here that these valiant pioneers of the Faith first caught sight of the savages whom they had come to evangelize. It was here too, that they witnessed the death and torture of an Indian prisoner and gained an idea of the inhuman cruelties they would be subjected to if ever they fell into disgrace with this barbarous people.

Whilst waiting there for favorable winds, our first missionaries occupied their time in preparing the sailors and all hands for the perilous voyage. Champlain tells us how they examined their conscience and cleansed themselves of their sins, because they wished to be in the state of grace in order to be more free in exposing themselves to the mercy of the winds and the waves on that great and perilous sea. The departure took place on April 24th, about five o'clock in the evening. Their boat was the *Saint-Etienne*, a vessel of 350 tons, commanded by François Gravé Sieur du Pont.

