

the reason for the liberal terms granted by him before any formal treaty was made, as well as by the Treaty of St. Germaine-en-Laye in 1632, have been left unaccounted for, only conjecture more or less nearly approaching the truth having been ventured upon. The general histories of England, to which I have had access, do not even mention the name of Quebec or Canada in this reign, or refer in the remotest terms to events taking place there. Knight's History, in eight large volumes, which professes to give, in tabular form, a list of all the treaties made by Charles I, does not mention the treaty of St. Germaine-en-Laye of 1632, and Haydn's Dictionary of Dates, which I had the curiosity to examine to see if that treaty was mentioned there, is equally silent.

To understand the full import of a letter from Charles I. to Sir Isaac Wake, his Ambassador at Paris (Note D) it may be permitted to give a summary of the events which led to the taking of Quebec by the brothers Kirke and its retrocession by Charles I.

In 1627, France and England being then at war, certain London Merchants formed themselves into a Company of "Merchant Adventurers," and fitted out ships for which they obtained letters of marque to enable them to seize French and Spanish vessels and goods, having previously obtained a patent from Charles I. authorising them to found a plantation in the countries bordering on the St. Lawrence, the patent giving them a monopoly of the trade.

The fleet thus fitted out, consisting of three vessels, was under the command of Captain David Kirke, son of Gervaise Kirke, a native of Derbyshire, who had removed for purposes of trade to Dieppe, where he married and where his children were born, but from whence he returned to London, where he died in December 1629. Besides David, who was on board of the largest ship of 300 tons, were his two brothers, Lewis and Thomas, in command of the other two ships. In that year Kirke captured the fleet under command of De Roquemont, with reliefs for Champlain. In the following year (1628) David Kirke sent from Tadousac, by Basque fishermen whom he had pressed into the service, a summons to Champlain to surrender Quebec. The answer was so confident, that Kirke thought it was useless to attempt the capture of what he believed to be a well supplied stronghold.

On the 25th of March, 1629, Kirke with a fleet of six ships and three pinnaces, all armed and with letters of marque, left Gravesend. Peace was established between France and England by the Treaty of Suza, on the 24th of April following, although not sworn to till the 6th of September by England and on the 16th of the same month by France. Kirke reached Gaspé on the 15th of June, but it was not till the 19th of July that he appeared before Quebec, with two of his ships. The settlers there were in the last stage of destitution. Charlevoix states (though it is not mentioned by Champlain himself) that so far from viewing the invaders as enemies, Champlain regarded them as deliverers. He capitulated on the most honourable terms, the