

Croix River, in New Brunswick. Here they suffered so much during the winter that with the first breath of spring they broke up their colony and sailed for the sheltered haven of Port Royal.

The winter was milder here, but it did not pass without suffering, though less from cold than from lack of food. The settlers had only a hand-mill for grinding their corn, and bread was consequently scarce. De Monts, their lieutenant-general, was away in France, fighting for the colony against the indifference and prejudices of even its friends, and the active hostility of its enemies. Baron de Poutrincourt, a leading spirit in the new enterprise, despite urgent business in France, started for Canada in a ship bearing the curious name of the Jonas. He brought with him his enthusiastic and poetic friend, Marc Lescarbot, who was said to be as able to build up a colony as to write its history.

After a long and tedious voyage the Jonas sailed into the calm harbor of Port Royal, and soon reached the spot where, amid the deep green of the almost unbroken forest, were clustered the wooden buildings of the little colony. They saw no sign of human existence till an old Indian appeared cautiously paddling a birch canoe. Then a Frenchman, armed with his arquebuse, came down to the shore, and at the same moment a shot rang out from the little wooden fort. But the white flag at the mast reassured the two lonely Frenchmen who were left on guard in the absence of their comrades, gone to look for French fishing vessels and secure supplies.

The long-imprisoned emigrants leaped on shore, and the lately silent settlement resounded with the merry voices of the Frenchmen.

Poutrincourt and Champlain soon started on a voyage of discovery, which occupied two months. It proved very fruitless, and was at last cut short by the autumn gales.

Lescarbot had, however, remained at Port Royal, where his activity, energy, and bright, cheery spirit made him a most useful member of the colony. He spurred the others on by example as well as precept, to cultivate the low meadows by the river, and to lay out gardens in which he would often work busily till late in the summer moonlight. He set the colonists to construct a water-mill, in place of the primitive hand-mill, to make fire-bricks and a fur-