

countries claimed and discovered by France. After the voyages of Cartier the French got up several expeditions, avowedly in a commercial spirit. One of these expeditions made a settlement at Port Royal, now Annapolis, in the province of Nova Scotia, or Acadie. Among the founders of that settlement were Lescarbot and Champlain, each of whom is intimately associated with the early history of British North America. Lescarbot left behind him some pleasing sketches of the doings of himself and comrades in those days of exile from *la belle France*—how they founded a new order, *l'ordre de Bon Temps*, whose Grand Master had to furnish its members with all the materials for feasts,—how they made up hunting and fishing parties, from which they derived both profit and enjoyment. In the early part of the seventeenth century Champlain founded the city of Quebec, on the sight of the ancient Stadaouë. Champlain's life reads like a romance—full of hair-breadth escapes by land and sea.

In the old library of Dieppe, the traveller can still see a moth-eaten manuscript, written in a formal and plain hand, and illustrated by pictures of a most fantastic character. We see “forts, harbours, islands and rivers, adorned with portraitures of birds, feats and fishes.” Here we see “Indian feasts and dances; Indians flogged by priests for not attending mass; Indians burned at the stake, six at a time, for heresy.” We are amused by illustrations of chameleons with two legs, and of a griffin, a monster with the wings of a bat, the head of an eagle, and the tail of an alligator, which was said to haunt certain parts of Mexico. This extraordinary medley of truth and imagination is the journal of Samuel Champlain, of Bronage, on the Bay of Biscay—the father of New France. It would be a pleasing task, if it were within the scope of this paper, to follow him in his adventurous career in the colony he founded successfully on the banks of the St. Lawrence. We see this intrepid soldier and sailor—for he was both—superintending the erection of the buildings which were so long to hold the fortunes of the little colony; anon sitting by the camp-fire of the Montagnais Indians; anon aiding the Indian tribes in their conflicts with the “Romans of the New World,” the Iroquois; anon venturing on the unknown waters of the Ottawa, the guest of the Algonquins, and tracing that river to its very sources. Wherever he went his manly qualities won the admiration and friendship of the tribes that then inhabited Canada. Without his courage and energy, Quebec would not have been founded at so early a date, and France might never have gained a foothold in the new world.

The history of New France is especially full of dramatic interest. Many men connected with the noble families of the old world took part in the foundation of the colony, and established their seignories amid the forests. They tried to reproduce, so far as they could, in the American wilderness, the old feudal system which had so long repres-

*Montreal is now one of the best built and most prosperous cities in America, with a population of at least 121,000 souls. Its position, at the junction of the Montreal and Ottawa, could not be better, and must always make it one of the commercial entrepôts of this continent.