

feed some fifty whites, but Memberton and his family beside, at least sixty persons in all. As the vessel last arrived contained but a small quantity of provisions, he and Father Biard took a trip to the opposite coast for further supplies. At a harbor called La Pierre Blanche they found four vessels, one belonging to M. De Monts, another to Pontgravé, and the others from Rochelle and St. Malo. Poutrincourt succeeded in making them promise to assist his son, who was to act as Vice-Admiral, while he himself went on to France with the hope of obtaining further aid.

About the middle of July, Poutrincourt left Port Royal in charge of his son, who appears to have been high-spirited and wanting in that coolness and tact which come with age and experience of the world. The total number of persons in the colony was twenty-two, including the two Jesuits, who immediately commenced to learn Micmac, as the first step necessary to the success of the work they had in hand. Biencourt appears to have had not only disputes with the Jesuits, but difficulties with traders coming within his jurisdiction. At St. John's he took Pontgravé's son and a number of others, who had built a trading hut; he collected tribute from traders at St. Croix and other places on the Acadian coast. This expedition occupied Biencourt until November, and he returned after a profitless voyage, worn-out and dispirited.

The two priests all the while were suffering many hardships, but they bore their troubles with a patience and resignation which gained them even the admiration of those who were not prepossessed in their favor. Masse, who had gone to live among the Indians, was nearly starved and smoked to death in their rude camps; but still he appears to have persevered in that course of life as long as he possibly could. About this time—soon after the return of Biencourt from the voyage just mentioned—the priests had the consolation of performing the last offices for the veteran Memberton. One hesitates to believe that the old savage had entirely forgotten his heathen superstitions,

since the historian tells us that on his deathbed he expressed a strong desire to be buried with his forefathers. The arguments of his priestly advisers, however, overcame his superstition, and the remains of the fine old Indian saganmore were finally laid in consecrated ground. Memberton was always a staunch friend of the French, and appears to have possessed many noble qualities. Father Biard, describing his person when he was nearly a hundred, said he was extremely tall, strong-limbed, and bearded.

Matters looked gloomy by the beginning of the New Year; no news had as yet come of the ship that was to bring them supplies from the Governor of Port Royal. It was found necessary to place the settlers on rations, which were rarely supplemented by presents of game from the Indians, who, with the exception of Memberton's family, had kept aloof from the little community. On the third Sunday after Christmas, Father Biard called upon Biencourt to serve out the rest of the wine to the men, as he had a presentiment that the long anxiously wished-for vessel was close at hand. The priest happily proved a true prophet, for the vessel arrived on the 23rd of January with a store of provisions which—small as it was—came very opportunely.

The news from Poutrincourt was very discouraging. Unable to raise further funds on his own responsibility, he had been obliged to accept the proffer of assistance from Mme. De Guereville, who, in her zeal, had also bought from De Monts all his claims over the colony; and what was still more important, had obtained from the King a grant of all Acadia, with the exception of Port Royal, which belonged to Poutrincourt. The society of Jesuits were therefore virtually in possession of Acadia, as far as a French deed could give it away. But the French King forgot when he was making this lavish gift of a continent, that the British laid claims to the same territory, and had already established a colony within its limits. After many misfortunes, the little settlement of Jamestown was commencing to show some vitality and strength.