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HISTORICAL SKETCH.

PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

THE first European that visited this Province, who has left any record of his voyage, was Jacques Cartier, who was sent out by Francis I., of France, in 1534, in command of an expedition which had for its object the making of discoveries in the new world, which Columbus had disclosed forty-two years before. Cartier sighted Point Escuminac, at the southern entrance of Miramichi Bay, on the 30th of June, and landed next day. He sailed North and entered the Bay Chaleur, which he thus named in consequence of the excessive heat which then prevailed. In his exploration of the Bay Chaleur Cartier visited Bathurst Harbor and traded with the Micmac Indians whom he found there. He gives a most flattering account of the soil and resources of New Brunswick, its fine trees and the various fruits and berries in which it abounded. But this discovery led to nothing, for Cartier's subsequent voyages were all up the River St. Lawrence. It was seventy years before another explorer from Europe with a Royal Commission in his pocket, visited our shores. In the meantime, however, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy had become the resort of fishermen from France and other European countries.

In 1604 De Monts was sent out by Henry IV. of France to Acadia with a Commission which gave him authority to found settlements. Samuel de Champlain, the most distinguished of Canadian explorers, accompanied him. De Monts and Champlain reached the mouth of the St. John River on the 24th of June, the day of Saint John the Baptist, and gave it the name which it still retains. The only inhabitants at that time were Micmac Indians, who had a fortified village on Navy Island. De Monts did not seek to found a settlement at St. John, but established his colony on the small island in the St. Croix, now known as Doucett's Island. But during the winter which followed, 1603-5, the colonists suffered so much from disease and hardship that out of seventy-nine thirty-five died, and the settlement was abandoned. A year or two later a company of men from St. Malo founded a fishing station on the