

Twenty years passed on, ere the island was again visited by a white man. In 1609, Champlain, governor of New France, (by which name Canada was then known), wishing to establish relations with the great Indian Tribes of the interior, came to Hochelâga where he chose a site and cleared ground for the proposed trading post. The spot chosen was immediately above a small stream (now covered by Commissioners and Foundling streets), which entered the River St. Lawrence at Point à Callière; here, on the margin of the stream, he built a wall of bricks which he made from the clay, but no Indians appearing, the island was again left to solitude and thirty years elapsed ere its forests sent back the echo of European voices.

On the 18th of May 1642, Paul de Chomedey, Sieur de Maisonneuve, a devout Christian, an able statesman, and a valiant soldier, having accepted the position of governor of the newly acquired isle, which had been purchased from the Company of "One Hundred Associates," for the sum of seventy five thousand livres, with his little flottilla, a pinnace, a flat bottomed craft moved by sails, and two row-boats, approached Montreal, resolved to settle a Colony there, "even if every tree on the Island were an Iroquois." Gliding along the green and solitary shores, now thronged with the life of a busy City, he landed on the spot where Champlain, 31 years before, had chosen as the first site for a settlement. It was a tongue or triangle of land formed by the junction of a rivulet with the St. Lawrence. This rivulet was bordered by a meadow, and beyond rose the forest with its vanguard of scattered trees. Early spring flowers were blooming in the young grass, and the birds flitted among the boughs.

Maisonneuve sprang ashore and fell on his knees. His followers imitated his example, and all joined their voices in songs of thanksgiving. Tents, baggage, arms and stores were landed. An altar was raised on a pleasant place near at hand which