

which we have seen the workmen commence the first inroad that had ever been made on the primeval forest. Three well-stored ships had arrived from France and anchored in the sheltered roadstead, bearing hardy Breton fishermen, and skilled artisans to inaugurate a new colony, to make wealth for their shareholders in the counting rooms of Bourdeaux and St. Malo.

DeRoma, the Director of this new company belonged to the former city. The character of this man has been drawn by several of his contemporaries who were on a footing of intimacy with him during his residence on the Island, and although the portraits may differ in some lines and tints, they agree sufficiently to enable us to divine what manner of man he was.

Trained in the counting-room, his mind had received so severe a mercantile bent, that schemes and projects of traffic were its constant food. Some of these created strange misgivings among the shareholders of the company, as to the mental condition of their Director. He proposed, for instance, to establish a brewery at Trois Rivières, in order to brew beer from the excellent barley that grew upon his cleared lands. The beer he intended to dispose of in the markets of the French West India Islands, and carry back to his settlement the sugars and coffees of Martinique. In furtherance of this project, he asked the Company to send him bottle-makers from France. The shareholders did not see fit to comply with this request, but they drew unwarrantable inferences from its proposal.

DeRoma, withal, was a man of unflagging energy, quick apprehension, and ready action. On account of these qualities, the company chose him as the manager of an enterprise for making money, forgetting the while that these qualities in mortals are frequently found in a setting of such delicacy, that rough treatment scatters the gems. Zeal for the company's interests undoubtedly possessed De Roma in a heroic degree; but it was fatal that this zeal far outstripped the efforts which the company was willing to make for its own advantage. The shareholders, in fact, lagged irresolutely behind their manager. If, however, De Roma saw visions and dreamed dreams, he nevertheless struggled manfully with realities. Among the busy workmen, whom we have seen wrestling with the rugged wilderness on