

CARTOGRAPHY

EVERY one knows that Jacques Cartier's discoveries in the sixteenth century and Champlain's voyages in the seventeenth produced only what is curious in the way of hydrography. Abraham Martin, from whom the famous Plains of Abraham take their name, was the great seventeenth century King's Pilot at Quebec, and the prototype of all the rule-of-thumb navigators of the St. Lawrence down to the time of the Conquest. The pilot waters were generally divided into three parts: the first from Bic to Isle-aux-Coudres; the second from Isle-aux-Coudres through the redoubtable "Traverse" to Quebec; and the third from Quebec to Montreal. Some pilots took longer beats, others were more local still, and none seem to have been really first-rate at their work. French hydrography was sadly hampered by want of funds. There never was any systematic survey, because neither the Home nor the Colonial Government understood the importance of it. There was plenty of verbose correspondence, but little real knowledge. Iberville, after whom the South Channel from Crane I. to I. Madame was named, La Richardière, whose reports about the passage between Green and Red Islands and other places show some grasp of the subject, de Vitré, who is often credited with the doubtful honour of having brought Saunders safely through, and others, all knew enough to have made themselves useful to more scientific surveyors. And France had the surveyors. But she never used them to advantage in Canada. The wonder is that—what with the ignorance, apathy and dishonesty in high places—she was served so well as she was in the chart taken from the *Chézine* by Durell and used by Saunders on board the *Neptune*. Louisburg was well known to both sides. In 1753 the *Imprimerie Royale* in Paris published the *Voyage fait par ordre du Roi en 1750 et 1751 dans l'Amérique Septentrionale pour rectifier les Cartes des Côtes de l'Acadie, de l'Isle Royale, &c.* Par M. de Chabert, Enseigne des Vaisseaux du Roi. And the *Considérations sur l'état présent du Canada*, published by the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, show conclusively that New-England craft were swarming in Canadian waters till stopped by actual hostilities.