

light artillery. Roberval had under him three hundred fighting men armed with harquebuses, cross-bows, and small shields, the latter to protect them against the arrows of the Indians. They were taking in addition twenty horses, as many cows, four bulls, one hundred sheep, the same number of goats, and ten pigs for breeding in the country. Carts, farming implements, and twenty ploughmen also formed part of the expedition, which hoped to sail eight days after Easter and to reach Canada in four weeks.¹

This information reached Charles V at Ratisbon early in May. On May 7, 1541, he thereupon wrote to the Cardinal of Toledo as follows:—

‘I have received letters from my ambassador in France, which will accompany this, by which you will learn of the departure of the said fleet, and its alleged destination, and because of the speed with which it has been despatched, there appears to be no means of impeding the expedition. Nevertheless, it would be well to investigate where these new lands spoken of in the said report lie, which it is said are not more than 750 leagues from France and another 600 to Canada, whither they go to explore and settle. This land Canada being so near, it would seem to fall within our limits. Since this matter calls for a speedy remedy, I charge you forthwith to summon the Councils of State and of the Indies, to discuss the question of the fleet which it is necessary to fit out; and if it cannot be fitted out this year, let it be got ready for the coming year. And having communicated with the very reverend Cardinal, our Governor of the Indies, advise me of what appears necessary, that proper steps may be taken. And I must not neglect to warn you, that even if this land where the said French are going to settle does not lie within our limits and is of little value, they may from thence go farther afield and reach the lands within our limits, which would be a great anxiety and bring destruction upon our colonies; and by building fortresses and settling in that land they may take root and fortify themselves, and it will be difficult to drive them out, unless it is done speedily. And as I wish to know whether the said new lands and Canada lie to the north, or in what part and limits they lie, procure information and advise me thereof; and con-

¹ *Bibliothèque de l'École des Chartes*, vol. lxxiii. pp. 297-300 (Paris, 1912).