

tury, that he left France with his only son, Charles, then fourteen years of age, and settled at Port Royal. In the various vicissitudes of the little colony, the father and son participated; and, after it had been destroyed by Argall, they remained with Biencourt, among the friendly Indians, in sight of the ruins of the fort. It was not long before they regained their courage and commenced to rebuild on the site of the former settlement. With the assistance of some others who came out from France, they erected not only a number of buildings at Port Royal, but another fort, which they called St. Louis, in the vicinity of Cape Sable. Biencourt appears to have had much confidence in the younger La Tour, for, when he was on his death-bed, he made over to him all the rights which the Poutincourts possessed in Acadia. In order, however, that he should be able to enjoy this legacy, it was necessary that he should receive assistance from France; and, accordingly, in the summer of 1627, his father went across the Atlantic with a letter to Louis XIII., in which the king was asked to appoint the son his lieutenant over his possessions in Acadia. No doubt La Tour was greatly influenced in taking this step by the rumor which had come to his ears that the people of New England were becoming already jealous and fearful of the presence of the French, and were concerting measures to drive off neighbors who were likely to prove so troublesome to the British colonies.

And here we must pause for a moment, to survey the state of the several colonies that were scattered over the continent, at the time of which we are writing. The colony of Virginia,—the old Dominion,—was making steady progress, and growing in public estimation among the English. Every year witnessed a considerable influx of new settlers. All classes of the population were happy and prosperous. Jamestown, the oldest settlement in America, was rapidly increasing in size: the plantations of tobacco that surrounded it indicated the chief source of the wealth of the

inhabitants. In the present State of New York, the Dutch had made a few settlements, exhibiting the thrift and industry of old Holland. The colony of Plymouth had taken deep root, and was sending out its branches in all directions. Boston was already becoming the chief town of New England: it "was thought, by general consent, to be the fittest place for public meetings of any place in the bay." The dwellings of the citizens were, however, yet of the rudest description: the first meeting house had only mud walls and a thatched roof. The spirit of commercial enterprise was exhibited in the establishment of trading-houses on the Penobscot and Kennebec to the north-east, and on the Connecticut to the south-west. On all sides, even in these days, all classes of the people showed that indomitable spirit of independence, and that ardent desire for self-government, which led to such important results in another century.

Throughout the wide extent of territory now known as British America, the French had only a few insignificant posts. Quebec had been founded, during the first decade of the century, by the adventurous, sagacious Champlain; but it was still a place of exceedingly limited dimensions. Twenty years had passed since its foundation, and yet its total population did not exceed 105 persons,—men, women, and children,—nearly all of whom were dependent on supplies brought out from France. The chief trading-places, besides Quebec, were Trois Rivières, the Rapids of St. Louis, and, above all, Tadoussac, where the ships from France generally came to an anchorage, and met the batteaux and small craft used for the purpose of transporting the cargoes to Quebec.* Of the state of things in Acadia, we have already written,—the fort at Cape Sable, and a few Frenchmen at Port Royal, or on the sea coast, were the only evidences of French colonization in that country.

Such, briefly, was the condition of the settlements in America at the commence-

* Parkman's *Pioneers of France in the New World*.