

## In and about Halifax—Notes of Earliest Times.



HERE was published in Paris, in 1630, a very interesting book in two volumes, entitled "Champlain's Voyages." This work covers the period of the exploration and colonization of that great navigator and pioneer in the new World from 1604 to 1635. He describes in the most interesting way the whole country, the harbours, rivers and the appearance of the country, the trees and strange animals and people he found here, interspersed with the legends and earlier history of the country as related by the natives.

In his first volume he gives an account of a voyage of exploration made along the coast of Nova Scotia, containing the following quotations:

"From Sesambro (Sambro) we passed a very safe bay (Baie Saine) containing seven or eight leagues, where there are no islands in the route except at the head of it, where there is a small river."

The context shows that this is undoubtedly a reference to the sheet of water now known as Halifax Harbour and Bedford Basin. Any resident of Bedford will recognize the accuracy of the narrative. This was in 1604, or not much later, and it is a long while before the Basin is again mentioned.

### THE COMPANY'S SETTLEMENT.

The next reference I find is in connection with the history of what was known in those days as The Company. Various companies of merchants had been formed ever since 1619 for the purpose of buying furs, trading with the Indians and for fishery purposes. The most famous of these companies was doubtless