

Cartier anchored in the St. Lawrence, opposite the present village of Beauport, in September, 1535, and Donnaconé, the King of the neighboring savages, proceeded from Stadaconé with twelve canoes filled with a train of warriors, to hold a parley with the mariner of St. Malo. The interview was mutually agreeable. Donnaconé took Cartier's arm and placed it gently over his own neck in token of confidence and regard. Cartier returned the compliment in the same form, and after they had partaken of bread and wine together they separated. Donnaconé, pointing toward the narrowing of the great river between the lofty promontory of Stadaconé, whereon the ancient capital of Canada now stands, and the high banks of Point Levi opposite, pronounced the word Quebec (Ke-bee), which, in the Algonquin language, signifies "narrowing." From that hour the word became a proper name in history and geography (5).

Cartier proceeded with his ships into "a little river," which he called St. Croix, the St. Charles of to-day. In the bay which forms the subject of our sketch he moored his small vessels for the winter, and Donnaconé came from his town with a train of five hundred Indians to welcome him. Cartier did not tarry long. He was told of a larger village far up the great river, called Hochelaga (now Montreal), and, in spite of the dissuasions of Donnaconé, who portrayed great perils that would surely beset him, the mariner proceeded, in one of his smallest ships and other vessels, to explore the mysterious regions.

It proved a most interesting voyage, and Cartier and his followers returned to the St. Croix at the middle of October, highly delighted with their knowledge and adventures. Those who had remained had, meanwhile, erected quite a strong stockade at the foot of the rocky promontory of Stadaconé, on the spot where the old church of Notre-Dame, in the Lower Town, now stands (6).

A terrible winter ensued. Five-and-twenty of the Frenchmen perished with cold and sickness, and all were prostrated at one time. And before spring Cartier had reason to doubt the sincerity of the

(5) The following is Cartier's own narrative in its interesting old vernacular: "Le lendemain, le Seigneur de Canada, nommé Donnacona en nom et l'appellant pour seigneur Agouhanna, vint avec douze barques, accompagné de plusieurs gens, devant nos navires, puis en fit retirer en arrière dix, et vint seulement avec deux à bord des navires, accompagné de ses hommes, et commença le dit Agouhanna par le travers du plus petit de nos navires à faire une prédication et prêchement à leur mode, en démenant son corps et membres d'une merveilleuse sorte, qui est une cérémonie de joie et assurance. Et lorsqu'il fut arrivé à la nef générale ou étaient les dits Taiguiraguy et Domagnay, parla le dit seigneur à eux et eux à lui, et lui commencèrent à conter ce qu'ils avaient vu en France et le bon traitement qui leur avait été fait, de quoi fut le dit seigneur fort joyeux et pria le Capitaine de lui bailler ses bras pour les baisers et accoler, qui est leur mode de faire chère en la dite terre. Et lors le dit capitaine entra dedans la barque du dit Agouhanna et commanda qu'on apportât pain et vin pour faire boire et manger le dit seigneur et sa bande. Ce qui fut fait. De quoi furent fort contents et pour lors ne fut autre présent fait au dit seigneur attendant lieu et temps. Après lesquelles choses faites se départirent les uns des autres et prirent congé et se retira le dit Agouhanna à ses barques pour soi retirer et aller en son lieu." Nothing was said about *Kebece*. [Ed.]

(6) According to Mr. Faribault, Stadaconé stood on the *Côteau Ste. Geneviève*, where is now St. John's suburb. Mr. Ferland seems to believe that that Indian town was extending between the *côte d'Abraham* and the lower part of Fabrique street. The author mistakes the place where Champlain built a fort in 1608 for that where Cartier's men had

friendship of Donnaconé: so, one day, at the beginning of May, he seized the chief, the interpreters, and two other Indians (7) who had come on board his ship, hoisted sail, and departed with them for Europe, leaving one of his smaller vessels behind. Ten years ago some money-diggers, searching in the bottom of the bay for treasures supposed to have been lost by Cartier, brought up, from far down in the mud, some timbers of that ship. They were carefully preserved in the Quebec Museum for a while, where they were accidentally destroyed by fire.

[Since writing the foregoing I have received from Mr. John Laird, of Quebec (who was building the ship *Storm King*, seen in the sketch of Cartier's Winter Harbour), a piece of the oak timber of Cartier's vessel, lately taken from this bay. In his letter accompanying the wood, Mr. Laird says, "There is not the least doubt of its being what it is supposed to be, as the man found, at the same time, a small chain plate of very ancient pattern that could not have belonged to any modern vessel." I have deposited a part of this timber among the collections of the New York Historical Society, where the curious may see it.]

When passing up Craig Street, on my return to breakfast, I observed quite extensive ruins upon an open space in the rear of some stores, and was informed that they were the remains of the palace of the Intendant—an officer who was next in power and influence to the Governor-General. It was not, indeed, a palace, but its comparative size entitled it to the name. It was built of the black lime

slate with which the locality abounds. The roof was covered with tin, and its wood-work was solid oak, within and without. On the north side, and extending to the St. Charles, was a fine garden. On one end was the storehouse of the Crown, and on the other the colony prison. In this palace all the deliberations concerning the province were held; and when those who had the chief management of the police and civil power met there the Intendant presided. When affairs of great consequence demanded a general council the Governor-General usually attended (8). After the conquest of Quebec by the English, in 1759, this building was neglected. It fell into decay and its ruin was completed in 1775, when Arnold was blockading the city. He established a body of troops in it. These were soon dislodged by shells thrown from the garrison which set it on fire. It was nearly all consumed; and in the great conflagration of the suburb St. Roch, in 1845, the destruction of its wood-work was completed.

One of the most noted (and the last) of the Intendants, next to M. Talon, was Bigot, who was distinguished for his avarice and public frauds. Many traditions of him yet exist, and apocryphal stories concerning him have assumed the form of history. Bigot made exorbitant drafts upon the French treasury for the ostensible purpose of carrying on the fortifications of Quebec, until one of the queens of France, it is said, began to suspect that the walls, commenced during a former Intendant's administration, were built of gold. His

entrenched themselves. The latter is on the little river St. Charles, near little river Lairet; in fact the place, or near the place, a view of which he has sketched. The fort was built to protect the vessels that were lying thereabouts. [Ed.]

(7) Eight other Indians. Cartier's object in that unjustifiable act was to show living evidence of his expedition. [Ed.]

(8) The governor used to be present at the Council board, which was presided over by the Intendant. He held the first place next after that dignitary. [Ed.]



RUINS OF THE INTENDANT'S PALACE.