

and among the colonists were nobles, chief merchants, and men of substance, from the cities of France.

Hostilities begun between European powers, soon extended to their American colonies, and an English fleet was sent to cruise in these waters. Quebec being then in a most defenceless state, fell into the hands of the British, but was restored after three years' possession.

Champlain was then re-appointed governor and again assumed charge of the colony under the auspices of the "Company of the hundred partners." For a time the population increased rapidly, many seeking in New France the tranquillity denied them at home.

In 1635, the foundation stone was laid for the college at Quebec. This was altogether a year of great promise for the colony ; but before its close, Canada suffered a heavy loss in the person of its governor and best friend, who died on Christmas day.

Samuel Champlain was a native of Brouage in Saintonge. He had distinguished himself in the marine service, and was chosen as a fit person to conduct those colonizing expeditions which have made his name a household word in Canada.

Thirty years of his life were devoted to his great task of establishing and extending the French possessions in America. He crossed the Atlantic fully a score of times to defend the colony's interests at Paris, and has left a relation of his voyages and expeditions, which prove him to have been a judicious observer and just narrator.