

Hudson Straits. In 1600-3, a charter was granted by Henry IV., of France, empowering Chauvin, on behalf of the Sieur de Pont Gravé, a rich merchant of St. Malo, to trade for furs as far north as 54° north latitude.\*

In 1608, Champlain founded Quebec; and two years afterwards, (in 1610,) Hudson entered the Straits and explored the great *Baye du Nord*, which was henceforth to bear his name, as well as to prove his last resting place, and those of his faithful followers. Hudson was followed by Button, another English navigator, who also discovered the Nelson River. Two other English expeditions penetrated to Hudson Bay, viz., those of Bylot and Baffin in 1615, and Fox and James in 1631. In the mean time Louis XIII had, in 1627-8, granted a charter to the company of One Hundred Partners, authorising them to trade for peltries as far north as the Arctic circle; and in 1642 the Treaty with England of St. Germain en Laye confirmed to Louis the sovereignty of the whole of New France, with its indefinite boundaries northwards.

#### EARLY FRENCH OVERLAND EXPEDITIONS TO HUDSON'S BAY.

"In 1647, Lake St. John, through which the Saguenay flows, was discovered by Père de Quen. In 1651 the French attained a point fully half way overland to Hudson Bay; their final aim being to penetrate to a shore of the North Sea, the aborigines thereabout having asked that a missionary should be sent to them."†

In 1656, forty-six years after Henry Hudson's death, the first Franco-Canadian expedition was sent under Sieur Jean Bourdon, Attorney-General of New France, to take possession of the Hudson Bay and adjacent regions on behalf of New France. This expedition is thus referred to by the then Governor of Canada, M. de Denonville, in a memoir which he addressed to the French minister at Paris, in October, 1686. He says: "In 1656, Jean Bourdon ran along the entire coast of Labrador, with a vessel of 30 tons, entered and took possession of the North Bay. This is proved by an extract of the ancient Register of the Council of New France, of the 26th of August of said year." Denonville thus further refers to two other expeditions which were sent overland to Hudson's Bay from Quebec: "In 1661 the Indians of said North Bay came expressly to Quebec to confirm the good understanding that existed with the French, and to ask for a missionary. Father Dablon went overland thither with Sieur De la Vallière and others. Father Dablon has given his certificate of the fact. In 1667, those Indians

\* Including most of James Bay and Rupert's Land.

† Garneau's *Histoire du Canada*, translated by Bell; Vol. I., p. 255. Montreal: John Lovell. 1860.