

the French king and his nobles have some faith in the country. His zeal for Christianity inspired the Recollet (rek'-o-lá') and Jesuit fathers to undergo the dangers and hardships of a life in the wilderness in order to convert the savages. He gained the confidence of the Indians and proved their friend; for though he drew upon the French and their Indian allies the fury and hate of the Iroquois, it must be remembered that the Hurons and Algonquins kept faith with the French chiefly on condition that the latter would aid them in their wars against their common enemy, the Iroquois.

Acadia.—Acadin (the French Acadie, meaning, in the dialect of the Micmac Indians, a place or district,) embraced what is now Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and the east of Maine. After the destruction of Port Royal by Argall, in 1613, the French made no attempt to settle the country for twenty years. The frequent wars between England and France, and the rival claims that often arose as to the ownership of this part of North America, left little chance for a colony to take root. In 1621, James I. of England granted the country to Sir William Alexander, a Scottish knight, who sent out a few of his own countrymen as settlers to Port Royal. But in 1632 Acadia was again restored to France; Isaac de Razilly (rah-zeel'-yoe) was made its governor, and for several years settlement went on rapidly. Farmers, artisans and traders were brought from France—in all about forty families. These gradually mixed with the few Scottish settlers and the former French settlers in Acadia who had not returned to France or gone to Quebec; and they became the ancestors of the Acadian French who now people various parts of the Atlantic provinces. The new settlers first occupied La Have, near the mouth of the river of the same name, on the Atlantic Ocean; but they afterwards removed to Port Royal, the site of which was soon changed to that of the present town of Annapolis. The land here was better suited for farming. The settlers prospered, increasing rapidly as the years went by, and extending themselves along the fertile valley of the Annapolis River and the low coast lands around the head of the Bay of Fundy, which continued for many years to be the centre of French population in Acadia. A few forts and trading posts, and gradually settlements, began to