

the rear arose the mountain, known subsequently as *Mont Real*, which sheltered it from the cold blasts of the north. Cartier was the first to raise a European Flag upon this Mountain, which must have seemed a strange ceremony to the simple savages, who had so long been the sole occupants of the whole region.

But although the island was visited by Cartier, October 2nd, 1535, and subsequently by Champlain in 1609, nothing was done towards a settlement until 1641, when a little band of 45 persons, commanded by Paul Chomedey, *Sieur de Maisonneuve*, "a devout Christian, an able statesman, and a valiant soldier," left France to found a colony on the Island of Montreal.

They arrived at Quebec, however, too late in the season to proceed with their project, and after many obstacles and hardships, the little company left Quebec, on 8th May, 1642, and on the 17th, the flotilla approached Montreal, and all on board raised a hymn of praise. The following day, (May 18th.) was the birth-day of Montreal.

The record of that first day is faithfully preserved, and what is of remarkable interest at this time, the very spot on which the little company landed is unmistakably pointed out, the site being now covered by the Royal Insurance Company's Building, the Custom House of to-day.

"Montmagny (the Governor,) was there to deliver the island, on behalf of the Company of the "One Hundred Associates." Here, too, was Father Vimont, Superior of the Missions. The pinnacle glided along the green and solitary shores, now thronged with the life of a busy city, and landed on the spot which Champlain, over 30 years before, had chosen as the fit site for a settlement. It was a tongue, or triangle of land, formed by the junction of a rivulet with the *St. Lawrence*. This rivulet was bordered by a meadow, and beyond rose the forest with its vanguard of scattered trees. Early spring flowers were blooming in the young grass, and