

During this winter his crew suffered as from the scurvy that when spring broke the ice, he was obliged to return to France.

In 1541 Francis I. named M. de Roberval Lieutenant Governor of the King for the new possessions who was charged with laying the first foundations of a settlement. Jacques Cartier, chosen to head the attempt, departed from France again May 24th, 1541, with five vessels of four hundred tons each, furnished with provisions for two years and prepared for all the emergencies of a Canadian winter.

In spite of the precautions taken, his crew suffered as much from that winter as had been experienced in the winters before when he was in Canada. He resolved to go back again to France before the arrival of Roberval, but he met the fleet of Roberval off the coast of Newfoundland.

Mr. de Roberval had departed from La Rochelle with three vessels containing two hundred emigrants and a number of gentlemen. The time of Roberval's sailing was April 16th, 1542.

Cartier and Roberval conversed together on their meeting, but so great had Cartier's company suffered from the severities of the climate that Roberval was unable to persuade them to remain. He continued his journey with his own company only and arrived at Charlesbourg.

This winter was as fatal to the new establishment as it had been to that which Cartier had endeavored to found. In the space of a few months it lost nearly a third of its number.

About this time a war was kindled between the Emperor Charles V. and Francis I. of France, and instead of reinforcements M. de Roberval received orders from the King to take his company to France.

By the time that peace was restored Henry II., son of Francis I., was King. Roberval obtained consent from him to continue his projects of colonization in Canada. Accompanied by his brother, he placed himself at the head of another expedition which perished probably at sea, for no news was received from it after it had sailed from France.

Half a century passed away, during which no thought directed any action towards America.

At the commencement of the sixteenth century a trading society founded at Rouen and patronized by the Commander de Chastes, Governor of Dieppe, obtained

the exclusive privilege of trading for furs in the northern part of America, on condition of colonizing the territories.

The associated members of this company sent an expedition to continue the discoveries of Cartier and to found establishments in Canada. The company was commanded by Pontgrave. Attached to the command was a navigator who had obtained renown. His name was Samuel de Champlain, a protegee of the King, Henry IV.

Henry IV. was of a new line on the throne of France. He was cradled amidst the martial enterprises of the civil and religious wars that raged in France. It was at this time that the French Protestants or Huguenots, finding that their privileges were too small for that liberty which the development of freedom of thought and independence of character require, became restive and provoked the wrath of the Catholic clergy of France against them.

Henry IV., whose mother was Queen of Navarre and whose father was a Bourbon, and related to the royal family of France, became a leader of the Protestants and had the whole of Gascony, or the west of France, to stand in his array. The great Coligny and Condé were his captives.

So much ability did he display on both the field and in council and after he came to the throne of France, that he was called the great. Some of his ability was manifested in the choice of proper men to manage affairs of state, and the favor he showed to Champlain is worthy of his name.

The ship bearing Chastes and Champlain departed from Honfleur March 15th, 1603, and touched at Tadoussac, on the St. Lawrence, at the blending of the waters of that river with those of the Saguenay.

Pontgrave and Champlain remained together till they had explored beyond the Sault St. Louis, where Cartier had been before. Here Champlain drew a chart of the place, visited and set out on his return to France, where he published an account of his voyage.

The King, Henry IV., who took an increased interest in these discoveries, encouraged the company of Rouen, and granted to its agent, the Sieur de Monts, the title of "Lieutenant-General of the King in New France." Champlain was named "Geographer of the King."

Both of these men embarked at Havre, May 8th, 1604. They traversed the At-