

by Champlain, to be the citadel and centre of French settlement. Acadia did not extend further south than the opening of the Bay of Fundy. After establishing these outworks upon the Atlantic entrance, Champlain entered the Gulf, and following his pennon, the main wave of French settlement swept on through the valley of the St. Lawrence to Quebec and Montreal and the great lakes and the West.

Meantime, England was awaking tardily to the necessity of preserving for herself some fruits of her discoveries in the north-east of America. Champlain met, on the coast of New Brunswick, a ship of the British Navy, which was in fact engaged upon an errand similar to his own. At the time of these tentative expeditions, a temporary peace existed between the two countries, whose traditional jealousies, however, never slept. So far as the record shows, neither cannon shots nor courtesies were exchanged by the ships of the two nations. Sighting each other on those lonely seas, they sullenly passed by without sign of recognition. In the minds of both commanders, there may have been a gloomy prescience of the one hundred and eighty years of bloody rivalry which those yet untenanted regions were to occasion between the contending nations—a struggle ending not in 1760, but in 1783; for the recovery of Canada was the secret aim of the fleets sent to the assistance of the revolting colonies.

England had neglected, but not forgotten, her claim, resting upon the discoveries of the Cabots, to the region from Florida to Labrador, which France was claiming by virtue of Verrazano's exploration in 1524, following in the track of Sebastian Cabot's second voyage in 1498. A few years after Champlain's simultaneous voyage and encounter with the British ship on the coast of New Brunswick, the patent to the Massachusetts Company was granted by the British crown. Before long appeared the first

contingent of the Puritan emigrants, who were to become a thorn in the side of the French settlements founded by Champlain in Acadia and on the St. Lawrence.

How completely, nevertheless, must human foresight at that date have failed to project the singular and contradictory chain of cause and effect which was to evolve itself out of these events. Who, in the first quarter of the seventeenth century, could have foretold that Massachusetts, so far behind at the beginning of the race, should signally assist to bring the French settlements under the British flag; that shortly after that hour of triumph, New England should become separated from and hostile to the British Crown, with the French Crown as an ally; that the once rival settlements of France should become the nucleus of the most important link in the world-wide chain of a renewed and extended British Empire; and that—most strange of all—the fugitives, expelled for loyalty to Britain, from the separating English colonies, should in time stand side by side with the descendants of the French, in peace and in war, in the territories marked out by Champlain for the Dominion of New France, helping under the British Crown, to protect the rival language and religion from extinction at the hands of the revolted descendants of the English settlers of Massachusetts?

Regarding, then, the history of Canada as the history of European colonization upon the coasts of the St. Lawrence River and Gulf, we may regard the appearance of Cabot upon the eastern border of that region, as the preliminary landmark in our annals. The progress of Canada, as we review it in this light, is seen naturally dividing itself into successive stages, two of which, already accomplished, have led us to the threshold of a third. The first division is occupied with the period of discovery and colonization; the second is the period of union and