

do, but it was by no means all that he achieved. From 1612 to 1629, from 1633 to his death two years later, he governed strongly and well the New France which he fondly hoped was going to be a great empire for his country and his race. During these years his difficulties were immense. Not only was there trouble with the Indians and with refractory settlers, but there was the reckless criminality of the fur-traders who corrupted the savages with brandy and too often taught them other phases of immorality which they had never known. Over and over again the lordship, or viceroyalty, of New France changed hands. There was neither continuity of system nor government. The Associated Merchants of St. Malo and Rouen held power for a time under the nominal rule of the Prince de Condé and strove in vain to oust Champlain from his position. Then two Huguenot gentlemen—brothers named De Caen—obtained the fur-trading monopoly, and religious disputes began to trouble a Colony shadowed at that very moment by the scalping-knife of the Iroquois. To them succeeded the Duc de Ventadour, whose object was neither trade nor settlement but the salvation of souls. Under his patronage Jesuit priests began to pour into the country and to follow the savages to their lairs in every part of a vast and unknown region.

Another change came when Richelieu succeeded to power in France. He strengthened Champlain's hands for the moment, founded in 1628 the Company of the Hundred Associates with Champlain as a member and with a charter of trade and power extending over New France, Acadie, Newfoundland, and Florida; proclaimed the Colony an absolutely Catholic possession and forbade the settlement of a Protestant within its bounds; pledged the Company to send out 6,000 settlers within fifteen years; and gave to the Company, as a personal gift from the King, two well-armed battle-ships. But all this was of little avail for some years. War was being waged with England, supplies had been cut off, the little Colony was