

And what do we not see on the very initial page of that history whose first and glorious lines were written by the light of a shrine in Brittany? A name and a date equally dear to every Canadian heart: *Jacques Cartier* and the *26th July 1535*. Here is a summary of it:

At the command of his sovereign, Francis I, Jacques Cartier sailed from St. Malo on the 19th May 1535 to penetrate at last into that Canada of which he had had a glimpse the previous year. A Catholic above all, the Breton captain would not embark before he had placed his expedition under heaven's protection. Nevertheless the voyage was a very stormy one. The wind became a tempest; his flotilla, consisting of three small vessels, was soon dispersed and scattered in every direction. But St. Anne watched over her standard-bearer and protected him. After two months' navigation of a sea swept by contrary winds, he finally reached Blanc Sablon at the entrance of the Straits of Belle-Ile. His companions, ever the sport of the waves, joined him there only ten days afterwards. A fervent Christian and having at least one of the two almoners on board his vessel, Cartier sanctified each day of delay with some pious act. He was doubtless preparing to celebrate properly the feast of Her who is invoked under the name of « Safe Port of mariners, » (1) when she brought back to him, « both together, » (2) as he himself writes, the two vessels about whose fate he was beginning to have some fears. It was the *26th July 1535*.

The joy of these brave mariners may be imagined when they at last saw themselves at the very doors of the country that they had so long sought. The sails were at once loosened and the *first feast of St. Anne in Canada* was celebrated.

Whether this be hazard or not, this event with its accompanying circumstances assumed, as one would now say a very suggestive character. Why should not Providence, which leaves nothing to the unforeseen, not have had a hand in it? Why not see in it the hand of St. Anne performing an act of authority by writing her name on the very frontispice of our his-

(1) *Litanies of St. Anne.*

(2) *Cartier, second voyage, p. 27.*