

ist, sought to make his office helpful to the conversion of the heathen of Canada, rather than the advancement of the material interests of the colony.

Impatient and dissatisfied at the delays and indifference of the association, Champlain entered a formal protest against them, and addressed a letter to the new Lieutenant-general, in which he represented in lively and forcible terms, the consequences of neglecting the colony. These complaints reached the ears of the Cardinal Duke de Richelieu, prime minister of France, who lent his attention the more readily to the patriotic representations of Champlain, that the one leading idea of his powerful mind was the aggrandizement and glory of France. He therefore took upon himself the title of "Head superintendent of all the French possessions beyond the sea;" but the state of the country left him little leisure to carry out his plans. He however, projected a renovated association which was organized in 1628, under the name of the "Company of the hundred partners," to which was granted powers and privileges amounting to an exclusive monopoly of the colonial trade. The King made the Society a present of two new stout ships, and conferred patents of nobility on twelve of his chief members. They engaged to send out during the first year, a large number of artisans of the more useful callings, and to reinforce the colony largely, providing temporarily for the wants of the settlers. The Cardinal Minister and others of the nobility were members of the Company,