

CHAPTER III.

FIRST SETTLEMENT OF ACADIE.

De Monts, 1604, A.D.— In the spring of 1604, a small fleet sailed from Havre de Grace, on the north of France, westward bound across the Atlantic. The expedition was fitted out chiefly by Huguenot merchants of Rochelle, who expected to make themselves rich by the fur trade in a portion of North America to which the king of France had given them sole right. On board were men of varied rank, from the titled nobleman to the humble mechanic and day labourer, all eager to try their fortune in the New World. The leader of the expedition was De Monts, who held a commission from Henry IV. of France, appointing him lieutenant-general or viceroy over a territory along the Atlantic coast of America, between the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the mouth of the Hudson River. This dominion was called Acadie. Other noted men of the party were Champlain, Pontgravé, and Poutrincourt.

After being roughly tossed on the ocean for a month, De Monts, with two small vessels, arrived off the south coast of Nova Scotia. He then sailed westerly, exploring some of the more important harbours as he passed along. Near the place now called Liverpool, he was surprised to find a fellow-countryman named Rossignol, who was busy buying furs from the Indians, and storing his little craft which lay in the harbour. De Monts was much displeased, for his commission gave him the sole right to trade