

## XIV

### ALONG THE ST. LAWRENCE AND THE MISSISSIPPI: CANADA; LOUISIANA

France arrived to subdue, not by the sword but by the cross; not to overwhelm and crush the nations she wounded, but to convert, civilize, and embrace them among her children.

*Francis Parkman.*

**70. The French Power in Canada.**—While England was gaining control of the Atlantic coast, France was busy in establishing her power along the St. Lawrence, the Great Lakes, and the Mississippi. We have seen (p. 17) that Cartier, at a very early date, visited the St. Lawrence region and claimed it for France. But the real founder of Canada was that Samuel Champlain<sup>1</sup> whom we saw (p. 39) skirmishing with the Iroquois Indians. In 1608—only a year after the settlement of Jamestown—Champlain planted the French flag on the rock of Quebec, and began in earnest the work of extending the French power in the New World. From Quebec as their base, the French pushed their explorations in almost every direction. By 1615 Champlain had made his way in person as far as the shores of Lake Huron, and before he died (in 1635) the French power had been established in the far-off wilds of Michigan and Wisconsin.

But the French did not lay the foundations of their power in America deep and strong as did the English. They did not bring their families with them; they cleared off but few forests; they tilled but few fields; they built no large towns. Their purpose in America was to accomplish three things: (1) to add to the glory of France by causing her flag to wave over new places; (2) to convert the Indians to the Christian religion; (3) to carry on a profitable trade in furs. For manufacturing and farming they cared very little. When they built a fort the

<sup>1</sup>Born in France, in 1567; died at Quebec, in 1635.