

1549. } ished all the hopes that had been conceived of establishing a colony in America, no one flattering himself with the possession of greater ability or success than these two brave men.

I do not see to whom we are to attribute an anonymous relation, without date, in the third volume of Ramusio, entitled, "Discourse of a great Sea Captain, a Frenchman of Dieppe, on voyages made to Newfoundland in the West Indies, called New France, from the fortieth to the forty-seventh degree, towards the Arctic pole, and on the land of Brazil, Guinea, the Island of St. Lawrence and that of Sumatra, as far as the French ships and caravels have sailed." Ramusio, whose preface at the head of this discourse distinguishes two voyages of this captain, the first in 1539 to Canada, Africa, and Brazil; the second to the East Indies, without mentioning the year, adds: "This discourse appears to us really a very fine one, worthy of being read by every one; and we regret much not to know the author's name, because did we know it we should not fail to name him, and not wrong the memory of so brave a man and accomplished a cavalier."¹

1555.
Expedition
to Brazil.
Why it
failed.

After the death of the Robervals, Francis I. seems to have taken no more interest in America. In the succeeding reign, the voyage of some Frenchmen to Brazil having excited in France great ideas of the wealth of that country, Admiral Coligni proposed to King Henry II. to share them with the king of Portugal. His design was approved, as well as his choice, for executing it, of Nicholas Durand de Villegagnon, Knight of St. John of Jerusalem and Vice-Admiral of Brittany. He was a man of merit, but who, having had the misfortune to engage in the new errors, was not ashamed to lend himself to a project, the aim of which was less to acquire for France a part of Brazil, than secure there a resource for Calvinism, proscribed and persecuted in France. Happily for religion,

¹ This account, ascribed to John in part an actual voyage, the two Parmentier, is in part a routier and being greatly confused.