


BOOK III.

ALTHOUGH, by evacuating Florida after de Gourgues' 1598. 
successful expedition, France seemed to renounce all settling on the mainland of America, the Normans, Basques, and Bretons still continued to take the whale and cod on the Great Bank and along the shores of Newfoundland, on all the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the great river that empties into it. Some even gradually opened a traffic with the natives of the country; and the fur-trade began to become an object which the love of novelty, and the ease with which the commerce was conducted, made more attractive than the fisheries, transforming many of our sailors into merchants.

At last, in 1598, France, after fifty years of domestic trouble, having recovered her pristine tranquillity by the valor, activity, and clemency of Henry IV., and finding herself equal to any enterprise under the ablest of her kings, the taste for colonizing again sprang up, and the Marquis de la Roche, a Breton gentleman, obtained from his majesty the same commission and the same powers enjoyed by Mr. de Roberval under Francis I., and already granted to himself by Henry III., but which he had not been in a position to exercise. His letters patent, dated January 12, 1598,¹ state that conformably to the will of the

Attempts of
the Marquis
de la Roche
in Canada.

¹ Mr. de la Roche is there styled: Carentan and St. Lo in Normandy, Troilus de Mesgouet, Chevalier of our Order, Councillor in our Council of State, captain of fifty men-at-arms of our ordnance, Marquis de Cotenmeal, Baron de Las, Viscount of

Viscount of Trevallot, Sieur de la Roche, Gommard and Quermoulec, of Gornal, Bonteguiño, and Liscuit. —*Charlevoix*. Lescarbot (ed. 1618), p. 409. *Memoir. des Comm.*, ii. 436.