

his enterprise in all parts of the kingdom; in a word, 1598.  
that he shall enjoy the same rights, privileges, power, and  
authority as were conferred on the Sieur de Roberval by  
King Francis I.<sup>1</sup>

The Marquis de la Roche, invested with a commission  
which enabled him to undertake any thing, wished to ex-  
amine the country in person. He fitted out a vessel the  
same year, and embarked with Chedotel, a skilful Norman  
pilot. The first land that he made was Sable Island, about  
twenty-five leagues southeast of Cape Breton,<sup>2</sup> and as-  
serted to be the spot where the Baron de Lery in 1508  
had wished to plant a colony.<sup>3</sup> His choice was a most  
wretched one. Sable Island with difficulty produces a few  
shrubs and grass, no land being less adapted for the  
habitation of man. It is, moreover, very small, and has  
no harbor. This island lies at 44° 12' N. The variation  
observed there is 13° N. E. It is very narrow, and is shaped  
like a bow. In the middle of the island is a lake about  
five leagues in circumference, that of the island being ten  
or thereabouts. Its two extremities are reefs of sand, one  
running N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  E. and the other southeast. It is thirty-  
five leagues north and south of Camceaux, and has sand-  
mountains discernible seven or eight leagues off. Here  
Mr. de la Roche landed forty wretched men, whom he had  
drawn from the prisons in France, and who soon found  
themselves more badly situated than in their dungeons.<sup>4</sup>

He then went to explore the shores of the nearest  
mainland, which is Acadia; and after obtaining all such  
information as he thought he needed, he hoisted sail for  
France. It was his intention to sail back by the way of

Failure of  
his enter-  
prise.

Description  
of Sable  
Island.

<sup>1</sup> See his Commission in Lescarbot (ed. 1609), p. 434; ed. 1611, p. 422.

<sup>2</sup> Champlain (ed. 1632), p. 32.

<sup>3</sup> Lescarbot, *Histoire de la Nouvelle France* (ed. 1618), p. 21. He is there styled, Le Sieur Baron de Leri et de St. Just, Vicomte de Guen. See also Bergéron, *Traité de la Na-*

*vigation*, ch. xx. Charlevoix (p. 28) omits de Leri's attempt, unless we are to infer that Aubert sailed under his orders. *Mémoires des Commissaires*, i. 28.

<sup>4</sup> Champlain, *Voyages* (ed. 1613), p. 4; ed. 1632, p. 32; Lescarbot (ed. 1618), pp. 21, 406, 407.