

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.¹

The Marquis de la Roche, invested with a commission Failure of
 which enabled him to undertake any thing, wished to ex- his enter-
 amine the country in person. He fitted out a vessel the prize.
 same year, and embarked with Chedotel, a skilful Norman
 pilot. The first land that he made was Sable Island, about Description
 twenty-five leagues southeast of Cape Breton,² and as- of Sable
 serted to be the spot where the Baron de Lery in 1508 Island.
 had wished to plant a colony.³ 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.⁴

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

¹ See his Commission in Lescarbot *vigilation*, ch. xx. Charlevoix (p. 28)
 (ed. 1609), p. 434 ; ed. 1611, p. 422. omits de Leri's attempt, unless we are

² Champlain (ed. 1632), p. 32.

³ Lescarbot, *Histoire de la Nouvelle France* (ed. 1618), p. 21. He i. 28.

is there styled, Le Sieur Baron de ⁴ Champlain, *Voyages* (ed. 1613),
 Leri et de St. Just, Vicomte de Guen. p. 4 ; ed. 1632, p. 32 ; Lescarbot (ed.
 See also Bergéron, *Traité de la Na-* 1618), pp. 21, 406, 407.