

were worn out, they made new ones of seal-skin.<sup>1</sup> At last, after a lapse of seven years, the king having heard of their adventure, obliged Chedotel, the pilot, to go for them; but he found only twelve, the rest having died of their hardships.<sup>2</sup> His majesty desired to see those who returned, in the same guise as found by Chedotel,—covered with seal-skin, with hair and beard of a length and disorder that made them resemble the pretended river-gods, and so disfigured as to inspire horror. The king gave them fifty crowns apiece, and sent them home released from all process of law.<sup>3</sup>

The failure of the attempt of the Marquis de la Roche did not prevent others from soliciting, on his death, a grant of the commission which he had obtained from the king. The Sieur de Pontgravé, an able navigator and one of the chief merchants of St. Malo, had made several voyages to Tadoussac, and saw that the fur-trade, if confined to a single hand, might become the foundation of a great trade. He proposed to Mr. Chauvin, captain of a ship, to ask of the king the exclusive privilege with all the prerogatives attached to the commission of the Marquis de la Roche. Mr. Chauvin relished the proposal, employed his friends at court, and obtained his wish. He immediately equipped some vessels of light draught, and sailed to Tadoussac with them.<sup>4</sup>

Pontgravé, who sailed with them, wished to run up to <sup>His errors.</sup> Three Rivers, because that spot, which he had carefully examined, seemed to him better fitted than any other for a settlement;<sup>5</sup> but it was not in Mr. Chauvin's plan to make any; still less to carry out the article in his commission in regard to the Catholic religion, being himself a

1598.

1600-2.  
Voyage of  
Mr.  
Chauvin.

<sup>1</sup> In 1580, Sir Humphrey Gilbert perished from trying to get cattle off Sable Island, where he had heard that they had been left by Portuguese, thirty years before.

<sup>2</sup> Champlain, *Voyages* (ed. 1613), p. 7; ed. 1632, pp. 32, 33. Lescarbot

attributes the cattle to Baron de Leri, as to whom Champlain is silent.

<sup>3</sup> Champlain, *Voy.* (ed. 1632), p. 33.

<sup>4</sup> Champlain, *Voyages* (ed. 1613), p. 4. He says Chauvin sailed in 1599 (ed. 1632), p. 34.

<sup>5</sup> Champlain, *Voy.* (ed. 1632), p. 36.