

1603.

It consisted of four ships; one intended for the fur-trade at Tadoussac. Pontgravé received orders to take the second at Camceaux, thence to run the whole channel formed by Cape Breton and Isle St. Jean, to drive off all who should attempt to trade with the Indians to the prejudice of the rights of Mr. de Monts, who took the remaining two ships to Acadia. He was accompanied by several volunteers, by the Sieur de Champlain, and by another gentleman, John de Biencourt, Sieur de Poutrincourt, whom he subsequently made his lieutenant.¹ But before entering on the narrative of what occurred during this expedition, I think it well to give a clear idea of Acadia, of which I shall have frequent occasion to speak in the course of this work, and which has often been confounded with the neighboring provinces.

Description
of this
country.

Acadia, according to all the authors who speak accurately, is a peninsula of triangular form, which bounds America on the southeast. John de Laet says so expressly in his *Description of the West Indies*.² All the historians and geographers use the same language, if we except Messieurs de Champlain and Denys, who give Acadia much more contracted limits. The former, in the eighth chapter of his voyages, gives the name of Acadia only to the south side of the peninsula;³ and Mr. Denys, who resided long in that country, who has given us a very exact description of it, who owed as his own and governed the eastern coasts in the name of the king, is of the same opinion.

The latter divides all the eastern and southern part of Canada into four provinces, which, in his time, had as

¹ Champlain, *Voyages* (ed. 1632), pp. 43, 44; Lescarbot, book iii. ch. 2.

² *Cadia, pars Continentis, triangularis est formæ . . . qui duo sinus exiguo terre spacio disiuncti, hanc provinciam pene insulam efficiunt.* De Laet, *Novus Orbis*, p. 50. Champlain, in his first work, always writes, *Arcadie*. The word is de-

rived from the Algonquin Aquod-diauke, a pollock. *Hist. Mag.*, i. 84.

³ *Le dit Sieur du Pont avec la commission du dit Sieur de Monts va à Cansseau et le long de la coste (vers l'isle) du Cap Breton. Le Sieur de Monts prend sa route plus à val, vers les costes de l'Acadie.* Champlain (ed. 1632), p. 43.—*Charlevoix*.