

other animals; and when they set out and did not perceive it, they augured ill of their voyage. It is pretended that Mr. de la Tour (of whom we shall speak hereafter) one day fastened a cable to it, and that ten oarsmen, whom he had put in a longboat, could not succeed in drawing it out, although the current was in their favor.¹

1604.

To return to the St. John's River. It is one of the largest in New France. Its banks are covered with very fine oaks, and several other kinds of trees of a very good quality of wood, and especially with nut-trees, the fruit of which is triangular in form and very hard to open; but when it is presented to the fire, it opens of itself.² Vines are also found there, bearing a very large grape, with a hard, thick skin and a delicious taste.

1605.

The Sieur de Pontgravé did not altogether coincide with Mr. de Monts in his opinion of Port Royal, the advantages found there attracting him less than the disadvantages already mentioned repelled him. Mr. de Poutrincourt, however, did not share this opinion; and as he had, when entering into partnership with Mr. de Monts, formed the design of settling with his family in America, he asked for this port and obtained it without difficulty. This concession, made in virtue of the power conferred on Mr. de Monts by the king,³ was also confirmed by letters patent of his majesty. But that gentleman, more engaged in trade with the Indians than the cultivation of the earth, did not display as much ardor in giving a solid basis to his new colony as he had shown to acquire so fair a domain; and we shall soon see him expelled by the English, against whom he might easily have defended himself, had he been able to oppose them with even thirty men well intrenched.⁴

Port Royal
conceded to
Mr. de Pou-
trincourt.

Fall approaching, Mr. de Monts passed over to France,⁵

¹ Lafiteau, Mœurs et Coutumes des Sauvages, i., p. 149.

² Beech-nuts.

³ Champ., Voyag. (ed. 1613), p. 39.

⁴ Ib. (ed. 1632), p. 98.

⁵ Champlain remained in the new settlement. Voyages (ed. 1613), p.

78.