

a harbor, which is about three leagues in length, composed of several islands, the largest of which, lying in the midst of the rest, is about four leagues in circumference. The soil is fertile, well watered, and well wooded. It forms two bays, where the anchorage is very sure; and on the mainland, which is very near, is a river called Salmon River, where a prodigious quantity of that fish is taken.¹ Mr. de Monts omitted another necessary precaution—to have seed to sow on arriving, and live-stock, which would easily have multiplied in an extremely rich country. In this way, the success of his enterprise would not have depended on ships from France, delays in which he should have foreseen; and he might have established a sedentary fishery, which alone would have sufficed to enrich him. But avidity to grasp all, often leads men to lose all.

1606.

Description
of the port
of
Camceaux.

The next year he had sufficient influence to get his privilege restored for a year, but on condition that he made a settlement on the St. Lawrence River.² His company had not abandoned him in his misfortune; but it seems to have had only the fur-trade in view, and this object caused it to change its plans and abandon Acadia. The associates equipped two ships at Honfleur, and confided them to Messrs. de Champlain and Pontgravé,³ who were directed to proceed to Tadoussac to trade, while Mr. de Monts solicited an extension of his privilege. He did not succeed; but this did not prevent their sending vessels up the St. Lawrence River in the spring of 1608.

Mr. de
Monts re-
covers a
little.

1607.

His company increased in proportion to the development of the fur-trade. Many persons, at St. Malo especially, had entered it, and increased its capital; but he

¹ Champlain (Voyages, ed. 1632, p. 96) speaks less favorably.

² See this commission, dated Jan. 7, 1608, in Champlain, Voyages (ed. 1613), p. 163; Laverdière's ed., p. 136; Lescarbot, Histoire de la Nouvelle France (ed. 1618), p. 613. It does not mention the St. Lawrence

as the place of settlement: "Nous avons resolu de faire continuer l'habitation qui avoit esté cy devant commencée audit pays."

³ Dupont Gravé sailed, April 5, 1608, and Champlain, the 13th. Voyages (ed. 1613), p. 164; Laverdière's ed., p. 138.