

Madame de Guercheville, provoked at this conduct, set about a subscription at court, with the proceeds of which the two Calvinists were reimbursed and got rid of.¹ She then wished to treat with Mr. de Biencourt, but not finding his title clear, she bought of Mr. de Monts all the rights that he had obtained of the late king, and which she counted on reviving. Her next step was to form a partnership with Mr. de Biencourt, by which the subsistence of the missionaries was to be drawn from the proceeds of the fishery and fur-trade.² The author of the Life of Father Cotton³ asserts, that that holy man allowed Madame de Guercheville to follow too far the impulse of her generosity on this occasion; but Mr. de Champlain, who had more to do in Acadian affairs at that time than any other man, is not of this opinion; for after justifying that lady in regard to her trading, which he explains at length, he adds: "This is that contract of association which has sowed so many rumors, complaints, and outcries against the Jesuit fathers, who, in this and every thing else, acted equitably according to God and reason, to the shame and confusion of those who envied and slandered them."⁴

At last the two missionaries sailed with Mr. de Biencourt,⁵ and landed at Port Royal on the 12th of June, 1611.⁶ The precocious conversions ceased on their arrival, and they soon experienced all the effects of the displeasure of those who had opposed their coming. They pretended not to perceive it, and seemed occupied only with their

1610.

Two Jesuits
arrive at
Port Royal.

1611.

¹ Biard, Letter to Father Aquaviva, 21st January, 1611.

² See the document, dated January 20, 1611, in Lescarbot (ed. 1609), p. 665. This lady, Antoinette de Pons, Marchioness de Guercheville, wife of the Duke de la Rochefoucault-Liancourt, governor of Paris, also obtained a royal patent for all North America from the St. Lawrence to Florida, excepting only Port Royal. Champlain (ed. 1632), p. 103.

³ Father Peter Joseph d'Orleans. La Vie du P. Pierre Coton de la Compagnie de Jésus, Paris, 1688, 4o.

⁴ Champlain, Voyages (ed. 1632), p. 101.

⁵ January 26. Lescarbot, p. 668.

⁶ Champlain; Biard, Relation, p. 29. This date is, however, wrong. They arrived, May 22. Biard, Letter to Father Balthazar, June 10, 1611; letter to Father Aquaviva, same day.