

1638. lation of soon seeing them reform, in consequence of the good example before their eyes, and make a duty of the necessity they were under of living like true Christians, in a country where every thing allured them to good and withdrew them from evil.¹

Establish-
ment of the
Hospital
and Ursu-
line nuns.

Two things were still wanting to this well-regulated colony, namely, a school for the instruction of girls and a hospital for the treatment of the sick. The Jesuits had, for some years, taken steps to obtain these two advantages ; but they carried their views further. In soliciting the foundation of a hospital, they had the design of aiding the colonists, most of whom were poor and without resource in sickness ; but it was also their aim to win the Indians more and more, by taking care of their sick in a house entirely devoted to charity :² and their project of bringing over Ursulines from France contemplated the education of little Indian girls, as well as that of the daughters of the French.

The former of these two projects was approved almost as soon as proposed, and its execution experienced no delay. The Duchess d'Aiguillon³ wished to be the foundress of the Hotel-Dieu ;⁴ and she applied to the Hospital nuns of Dieppe for sisters suited for such an undertaking. These pious recluses accepted with joy and gratitude so beautiful an opportunity of sacrificing every thing they held dear in the world to serve the sick poor in Canada. All offered to go ; all with tears asked to be selected ; but only three were chosen, and they held themselves in readiness to go by the first vessels.⁵

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, à Montauban, chez Jerosme Legier, 1636, p. 42 ; Ferland, Cours d'Historie, pp. 274, 511.

imprimeur du Roy, 1751, p. 2.

⁵ Juchereau, Histoire de l'Hotel-

Dieu, p. 4 ; Ragueneau, La Vie de la Mère Catherine de Saint Augustin,

³ Duchess d'Aiguillon, niece of Cardinal Richelieu, Religieuse Hospitaliere de la Misericorde de Quebec en la Nouvelle

France, à Paris, Florentin Lambert,

M.DC.LXXI, p. 40.

⁴ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1638, p. 2 ; 1639, p. 6 ; Juchereau Histoire de l'Hotel-Dieu de Quebec,