

The foundation of the Ursulines was attended with greater difficulty. The Canada Company would not touch it, deeming it, probably, not of such urgent necessity. This affair had been more than once on the point of execution, and had always failed at the moment when success seemed certain. At last a young widow of rank, Madame de la Peltre, came forward, whose plans were found more practicable and whose courage was more constant.¹ I have related in another work,² in detail, the wonderful circumstances that occurred, and the manner in which the illustrious foundress, after surmounting apparently invincible obstacles, devoted her means and her person to the good work, which Providence had shown her, and confirmed by a striking miracle.³

From Alençon, where she resided, she proceeded to Paris, to settle the business of the foundation; then to Tours, to obtain Ursuline nuns. Thence she drew the illustrious Mary of the Incarnation, the Teresa of New France, to use the expression of the greatest men of the last century; and Mary of St. Joseph, whom New France, who possessed her for a little while, regards as one of its tutelary angels. Thence she repaired to Dieppe, where she had ordered a vessel to be chartered. There she acquired

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1639, p. 6.

² Charlevoix, Vie de la Mère Marie de l'Incarnation, Institutrice & premiere Supérieure des Ursulines de la Nouvelle France, à Paris, chez Louis-Ant. Thomelin, MDCCXXIV, p. 195, etc.

³ Mother St. Thomas, Life of Madame de la Peltre (Magdalen de Chauvigny), New York, 1859, p. 26, etc.; Casgrain, Histoire de la Mère Marie de l'Incarnation, Quebec, 1864, 8o, p. 207, etc.; Choix des Lettres Historiques de la Vénérable Mère Marie de l'Incarnation, Clermont-Ferrand, 12o, 1857, p. 1, etc. Ma-

dame Magdalen de Chauvigny, daughter of Mr. de Chauvigny, Sieur de Vaubegon, was born at Alençon, in 1603. At the age of seventeen she married Charles de Grival, Seigneur de la Peltre, a gentleman of the house of Touvoys, who died five years after. When about carrying out her Canadian project she went through a formal marriage ceremony with Mr. de Bernières, treasurer of France, so as to free herself from the legal control of her family. She never became an Ursuline, but devoted her life and services to them. She died in the convent at Quebec, Nov. 18, 1671, aged sixty-eight.