

1640. more estimable for their piety and zeal for religion, formed a society which proposed to do on a grand scale at Montreal what had been attempted more modestly at Sylleri. There was to be on this island a French town, well fortified and able to resist all insults. The poor were to be received there and enabled to live by their labor. It was proposed to occupy the rest of the island with Indians of all nations whatsoever, provided they professed Christianity or wished to be instructed in our holy mysteries; and they were more persuaded that numbers would come, from the fact that, besides being a secure asylum against the pursuit of their enemies, it would always afford prompt succor in sickness and against starvation. It was proposed, even, to civilize them in time, and accustom them to live solely by the labor of their own hands.¹

It is in part carried out. The number of those who entered the association was thirty-five,²—too many to allow prolonged action in con-

1640-2. cert: yet it began in a manner that augured success. Under the grant of the island made by the king³ they took possession, in 1640, at the close of a solemn Mass, celebrated under a tent. The next year Paul de Chomedey, Sieur de Maisonneuve, a gentleman of Champagne, himself an associate, brought out several families from France. He arrived in Quebec with Mademoiselle de Manse, a lady of good family, appointed to take charge of persons of her sex.⁴ The Chevalier de Montmagny and the superior-general of the Jesuits conducted them to Montreal; and

¹ For the history of the association, thus briefly alluded to, the main spirit of which was Mr. Olier, the founder of the Sulpitians, see Faillon, *Histoire de la Colonie Française en Canada*, i, pp. 379-493.

² Mr. Faillon (p. 437) says the precise number is not known. Dollier de Casson says forty.

³ The island was ceded to the associates Aug. 7, 1640, by Mr. de Lauson (ib., p. 394), and by the Com-

pany of New France, Dec. 17, 1640 (ib., p. 395). Mr. Faillon makes no allusion to a royal grant, but mentions a royal approval of the grant and the concession of certain powers (p. 409).

⁴ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1642, p. 37; Belmont, *Histoire du Canada*; Faillon, *Histoire*, p. 424. Mlle. Mance arrived at Quebec Aug. 8, 1641, and Maisonneuve Aug. 24 (Faillon, pp. 420-2).