

DISCOVERY OF CHAMPLAIN'S TOMB.

THE Relation which details the circumstances of the death of Champlain throws no light on the place of his interment. The Relation for the year 1643, p. 3, in noticing the burial of Father Raymbault, states that he was "interred near the body of late Mr. de Champlain, who is in a private vault (sepulchre) erected expressly to honor the memory of that distinguished personage, to whom New France is under such obligation."

A register states that this was in Champlain's chapel. Mr. Ferland, with many other students, took this to be the Governor's chapel, attached to the Church of Notre Dame de Recouvrance, at or near the site of the present English cathedral.

The Abbé Laverdière, while editing a new edition of Champlain's voyages, was anxious to decide the point. He was soon satisfied that this chapel was in the Lower Town, and that it was the Recollect Chapel built in 1615. Investigation and the light of documents proved that this was in the Anse of the Cul-de-Sac, on a street still called Champlain Street, where an ancient cemetery exists. Arrived at this stage, Mr. Laverdière and the Abbé Casgrain, who had joined in his researches, were overwhelmed with disappointment to find that only ten years since the water-works had run directly through the ground. Application to H. O'Donnell, Esq., the assistant-engineer who directed the works, brought out the fact that he had come, at the foot of the stairs called Little Champlain Street, upon a vault containing a coffin and human remains apparently of some distinguished person; and that he had at the time preserved a plan of the locality and sketches of two of the bones. Remains of three bodies were found near. The body in the vault was undoubtedly Champlain's; those near it, the remains of Father Raymbault, the Recollect Brother Pacificus du Plessis, and of Mr. de Ré, known to have been interred near Champlain's vault.