

1623-25. Mr. de Champlain learned the fact by a letter of the viceroy, who enjoined him to sustain these merchants duly.¹ He at the same time received a letter from the king himself, by which his majesty assured him that he was well satisfied with his services, and exhorted him to give continued proofs of his fidelity.² This favor did not increase his fortune—and it may in truth be said that this was what least occupied his mind—but it gave him an authority needed more than ever then, especially on account of differences arising daily between the factors of the old company and those of the Sieurs de Caen, and which might lead to unpleasant results. With all the efforts made to people Quebec, it could number in 1622 only fifty souls, including women and children.³ Commerce was not very open; but a successful trade was always carried on at Tadoussac, and another had been opened at Three Rivers, twenty-five leagues above Quebec.

State of
Quebec.

It is forti-
fied.

William de Caen came to the spot himself, and although a Calvinist, he lived quite well with all. He had confided the direction of his affairs to the Sieur de Pontgravé, but that director's health obliged him to return to France in 1623.⁴ This was a real loss to New France, which owes much to him. The same year, Mr. de Champlain was warned, on good authority, that the Hurons were thinking of abandoning our alliance and joining the Iroquois.⁵

Montmorency company, consisted of William and Ezechiel de Caen and William Robin, merchants; Francis de Troyes, president of the treasurers of France at Orleans; Jacques de Troyes, merchant; Claude le Ragois, Arnould de Nouveau, Pierre de Verton, and Francis Hervé: Ferland, *Cours d'Histoire*, i., p. 200.

¹ This was done in 1621: Montmorency to Champlain, Feb. 2, 1621, in Champlain (ed. 1632), part ii., p. 8, and le Clercq, *Etablissement de la Foi*, i., p. 172.

² Champlain (ed. 1632), part ii., p. 8.

³ Sagard says (*Histoire*, p. 166): "All things considered, all the buildings of New France consisted of the little fort, the merchants' house, Widow Hebert's house, and our little convent." Champlain (*Voyages*, ed. 1632, p. 76) says that when he left Quebec, in 1624, it had only fifty-one inhabitants.

⁴ Champlain, *Voyages* (ed. 1632), part ii., p. 62.

⁵ Champlain (*ib.*, p. 54) speaks of a plot to cut the French off. Le Clercq (*Etab.*, i., p. 247) speaks of fears that the Hurons would join the Iroquois.