

Nothing was ever better devised, and I do not hesitate 1627. to assert that New France would now be the most powerful colony in America, had the execution corresponded with the beauty of the project, and had the members of that great body profited by the favorable disposition of the sovereign and his prime minister. The memoir presented to Cardinal de Richelieu by Messieurs de Roquemont, Houel, de Lattaignant, Dablon, du Chesne, and Castillon, agreed—1st. That in the ensuing year, 1628, the associates would send over to New France two or three hundred mechanics of all trades; and before the year 1643 they promised to increase the number of inhabitants to sixteen thousand;¹ to lodge, support, and supply them with every thing for three years; then to assign them as much cleared lands as would be necessary for their support, and to furnish grain to sow. 2d. That the settlers should be native-born Frenchmen and Catholics, and that care should be taken that no foreigner or heretic entered the country. 3d. That in each settlement there should be at least three priests, whom the Company undertook to supply absolutely with all required for themselves in person or their ministry for fifteen years, after which they might subsist by means of the cleared lands assigned to them. To compensate the Company for all this expense—1st. The king assigned to the associates and their representatives, forever, the fort and habitation of Quebec; all the country of New France, including Florida, which his majesty's predecessors had settled; all the course of the Great River and the streams emptying into it, or which in that extent of country reach the sea;² the islands, ports, harbors, mines, according to the ordinance, fisheries, etc.: his majesty reserving only the right of fealty and homage,

Company of
a hundred
associates
for the set-
tlement of
the colony.

April 29.

never received a legal existence: sand: Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, Bergeron, *Traité de la Navigation*; p. 15; Mercure Français, xiv., part Ferland, *Cours d'Histoire*, i., p. 2, p. 232; *Mémoire des Commissaires*, ii., p. 464.

¹ The real number was four thou-

² Its western limit was Lake Huron.