

The court of France was at first much shocked at this invasion of the English, after a treaty had been signed, which prevented them opposing it; but apart from reasons of honor, many doubted whether there had been any real loss, and whether it was worth the while to demand the restitution of Quebec. They represented that the climate was too severe; that the outlay exceeded the return; that the kingdom could not undertake to settle so vast a country, without greatly weakening its own strength. Moreover, said they, how are we to settle it; and what use will it be if we do settle it? The East Indies and Brazil have depopulated Portugal; Spain sees many of its provinces almost deserted since the conquest of America. Both kingdoms have, indeed, gained wherewith to balance this loss, if the loss of men can be balanced; but in the fifty years that we have known Canada, what have we derived from it? This country can, then, be of no use to us, or we must admit that the French are not suited for founding colonies. Yet we have thus far dispensed with them, and even the Spaniards would perhaps like to begin anew. Who but knows that Charles V., with all the gold and silver which Peru and Mexico supplied, never could master France, and often beheld his enterprises miscarry from want of means to pay his troops; while his rival, Francis I., found in his coffers means to repair his losses and cope with a prince whose empire was more vast than that of the first Cæsars? Let us improve France, keep her men, profit by her advantages for trade, turn to account

1629.

Some advise against asking the restitution of Quebec.

ried him to England. He arrived at Plymouth on the 20th October, and London on the 29th (*Voyages*, ed. 1632, p. 266). At Plymouth he heard of the peace concluded at Suse, April 24. 1629 (*Mem. des Commis.*, ii., p. 1), and wrote to induce the French to demand the restoration of Quebec, which he claimed at London through the French ambassador (Champlain, *Voyages*, p. 266). It would seem

that he was held for ransom ("Concerning Capt. Kerke's French prison," printed in *l'Abeille*, vol. x., No. 10). Sagard says the religious reached Plymouth, Oct. 18, and Calais, Oct. 29. Kirk, in a petition to the Board of Trade, claimed to have taken eighteen French vessels, with one hundred and thirty-five cannon, going to the relief of Port Royal and Quebec (*Mem. des Com.*, ii., p. 275).