

1629. the industry of her inhabitants, and we shall see all the wealth of Asia, Africa, and the New World enter our ports.

Reply to
their rea-
sons.

To this, others replied that the climate of New France moderated as the country was explored ; that this could not be doubted, as it lay in the same latitude as the most temperate regions of Europe ; that the climate is healthy, the soil fertile ; that with moderate toil, all the comforts of life may be procured ; that we must not judge France by Spain and Portugal, which had been drained of men by the wars of the Moors and their expulsion, before the discovery of both Indies, and which, in spite of this loss, had undertaken to settle immense countries ; that we must not fall into the same faults, but send to America every year a small number of families and disbanded soldiers, with girls taken from the hospitals, and settle them so that they may extend in proportion as they increase ; that experience showed French women to be fruitful there ; that children are brought up without difficulty, become robust, well made, and of very fine blood ; that the cod-fishery alone was enough to enrich a kingdom, required but little outlay, and was an excellent school to train sailors, but to derive all the advantages it was capable of producing, it would have to be made sedentary—that is to say, employ the colonists themselves in it ; that furs might also become an important object of trade, if care was taken not to exhaust the source of supply by endeavoring to enrich themselves at once. The forests which covered the country, and are undoubtedly the finest in the world, could be turned to profit in building ships. Finally, that the sole motive of preventing the English becoming too powerful in this part of America, by joining the two shores of the St. Lawrence to the many provinces where they had already thriving colonies, was enough to induce us to recover Quebec at any price.¹

¹ Charlevoix derives these discussions from le Clercq (*Etablissement de la Foi*, i., p. 419); but Mr. Faillon shows that there is no authority for them, and details the steps taken by France to recover Canada, and the