

As to the objection that we had made but little progress in Canada, after so many years, Champlain threw the fault on the private associations which had had the direction of the colony. I shall give his own words without any addition: "While an association, in a country like this, holds the purse, it pays, gives, and assists whom it pleases. Those who command for his majesty gain little obedience, having no one to assist except by the consent of the Company's agents, who relish nothing as little as those placed there by the king (or viceroys), as not depending on themselves,—not desiring them to see and judge what they do, nor their conduct and action in such affairs; they wish to draw all to themselves; are careless of what happens, provided they profit by it. They oppose forts and fortresses, except when the moment of need comes, and then there is no time. When I spoke to them of fortifying, they thought it a grievance. In vain I showed them the evil consequences that might result; they were deaf: and all this was simply fear on their part, that, if a fort was built, they would be mastered, and have law prescribed to them. And entertaining these thoughts, they left the country and us a prey to pirates or enemies. I wrote enough to the gentlemen of the council. It needed some one to give orders, which never came; and if his majesty had only left trade free to the associates, to have their stores and clerks, while the rest of the men should be in the full power of the king's lieutenant in the country, to employ them as he deemed necessary, either in his majesty's service or in fortifying or clearing the ground, so as to avoid famine, which might at any time happen if any thing befell the ships,—if this plan were adopted, more progress and advance would be seen in ten years than in thirty by the course pursued."¹

1629.

Cham-
plain's
opinion.

To the motives of policy and interest, which had not persuaded the majority of the council, others were added

cause of the delay in its restoration :
Histoire de la Colonie Française, p.
235, n.

¹ Champlain, Voyages (ed. 1632),
p. 11. He refers to matters in 1621,
and not to the time of the capture.