

1634. gular animals peculiar to this country and not found elsewhere. One is a bird that mews like a cat; the other a kind of hare that sings like a bird, and has a very delicate flesh.¹

Champlain's reasons for planting a colony among the Hurons.

Champlain had for several reasons wished missionaries to accompany the Hurons to their towns. He believed these Indians better fitted than the rest to accredit Christianity. By missions he wished to prepare the way for a settlement, which he projected in their country, situated very advantageously for trade, and from which it would be very easy, by means of the lakes, that almost encircle it, to continue exploration to the extremity of North America. It was, finally, easy to bind closely to the French a nation from whom we had apparently much to fear and to hope in the consolidation and progress of the French colony. No project could be more wise. The misfortune of New France was, that its founder was taken away at the very time when it most needed his experience, and that his successors either did not enter into his views, or were not in a position to carry them out, nor consequently enable the Huron nation to regain, while it was yet time, that superiority in arms which the Iroquois had already begun to acquire over them.

And the missionaries to make it the centre of their missions.

The missionaries, on their side, were persuaded that by fixing the centre of their mission in a country which was at the same time the centre of Canada, it would be easy for them to bear the light of the gospel to all parts of this vast continent; and nothing would have prevented the execution of this project, if Champlain's plan had always been followed. Several nations had already begun to trade with us, the Montagnez below Quebec, the Algonquins above, in the neighborhood, and in an island formed by the great Ottawa river above Montreal; and the rest, under the name of Nipissings or Nipis-

¹ Bressani, p. 7; Relation (1634), *nax*, or more probably the prairie p. 36. The catbird (*turdus felivox*) squirrel (*spermophilus Franklinii*). and the woodchuck (*arctomys mo-* Patent Report, 1856, Agric., p. 80.