

## CHAPTER IX.

## OF THE PROJECT OF THE GENTLEMEN OF MONTREAL.

A GREAT and good man, who had never seen New France except in the presence of God, felt strongly inspired to work there for his glory. Having met with a person animated by the same spirit, they shipped, in the year 1640, twenty tons of food and other necessities for the purpose of founding, in due time, a new residence on the Island of Montreal. Last year they sent over forty men under the command of the sieur de Maisonneuve, [124] a Gentleman of Champagne, to lay the foundations of this generous undertaking. Such an enterprise would have seemed as rash as it was holy and daring, had it not been based upon the power of him who never fails those who undertake nothing except under the impulse of his will. And every one who learns what is being done to carry out this great design successfully will at once see that Our Lord is certainly the author thereof. But let us say a few words about that Island before going any further.

They count sixty leagues from the entrance of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence to the Forillon of Gaspé,<sup>8</sup> where the Gulf narrows and becomes a river; ninety leagues from the Forillon of Gaspé to Tadoussac; forty leagues from Tadoussac to Kebec; twenty-eight or thirty leagues from Kebec to the three Rivers; twelve leagues from the three Rivers to the Fort of Richelieu, now being built on the River of