

Relation of New France, and the Jesuit Fathers'  
Voyage to that country.

CHAPTER I.

[1] ON THE LOCATION OF NEW FRANCE, AND THOSE  
WHO FIRST ATTEMPTED TO SETTLE THERE.

WE call New France,<sup>1</sup> the lands and countries of America or the West Indies, which are upon the other shore of the Ocean of Guienne,<sup>2</sup> towards the setting Sun, opposite us and lying directly in the same line from East to West. [2] They have given it this name of New France principally for two reasons. The first, because (as I have said) these lands are parallel to our France, nothing lying between Guienne and said countries, except our Western sea, in its narrowest part more than eight hundred leagues wide; in its widest, a little less than a thousand leagues, or thereabout. The second reason is that this country was first discovered by French Bretons, in the year 1504, one hundred and eleven years ago, and since then they have not ceased to visit it. The Normans also assisted in these early discoveries; among whom we read that Captain Thomas Aubert,<sup>3</sup> of Dieppe, sailed in the year 1508, and brought back from there some of the Natives, whom he exhibited to the wonder [3] and applause of France. Two years before him, Captain Jean Denys,<sup>4</sup> of Honfleur, had made the same discovery; but, as he brought back only some fish, and Geograph-